US hoops back on top, beats Spain for gold

BEIJING—THE UNITED STATES ON SUNday won the gold medal in Olympic men's basketball with a 118-107 victory over Spain, culminating a three-year mission to end years of embarrassment.

The US Olympic team survived a huge challenge from Spain in an epic final of hard fouls and flying elbows. After overwhelming everyone for seven games, the Americans led by only four points with under 2 1/2 minutes to play, then proved they could handle the close game that seemed would never come in Beijing.

US HOOPS A7

Beijing Olympics end with mixed legacy

BEIJING—CHINA CONCLUDED its debut as Olympic host on Sunday after 16 days of near-flawless logistics and superlative athletic achievement that contrasted awkwardly with the government's wariness of dissent and free speech.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge declared the "truly exceptional" Beijing Games closed.

"You have shown us the unifying power of sport," he told competi-

BEIJING A6

ATHLETES run past Tiananmen Gate where a giant Mao poster hangs. AP, FILE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, August 25, 2008 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 261 P10 online: www.inquirer.net

REDEMPTION Team USA members celebrate after winning the gold medal in men's basketball against the Spaniards in the Beijing Olympics. The Americans only took the bronze in the 2004 Olympics in Athens. AFP

2 Kato camps fall–AFP

GMA silent on MOA framework

By Amanda Dorotila

THE SUPREME COURT'S SUSpension of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the establishment of an expanded Bangsamoro ancestral home

ANALYSIS

has delayed the signing of the deal.

Within three weeks of the high court's issuance of a temporary restraining order, the MOA—dismissed by acclaimed constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas as a mere "piece of paper"—has sparked the resumption of full-scale war between Philippine government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The hostilities have broken the truce during which negotiations for a peace agreement between the Philippine government and MILF panels flourished.

In view of this development,

ONE SILENT A10

ICE CREAM TREAT An Army lieutenant treats children to ice cream at the evacuation center in Linamon, Lanao del Norte. JOEY LUYONG

But military can't find MILF leader

By Nikko Dizon in Manila
and Jeffrey Meiksen and Nash B. Maulana
Inquirer Mindanao

GOVERNMENT FORCES PURsuing Ameril Umbra Kato yesterday said they had overrun two of his encampments but had found no trace of the wily Moro commander blamed for the recent surge of violence in Central Mindanao, the military reported.

But the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) denied military claims that two "satellite camps" of Kato had fallen. MILF civil-military chief Eid Kabalu said the military must have been referring to "positions."

Col. Marlou Solazar, the 601st Army Brigade commander based in Kharff Aguak in Magpetdetuan, said his forces on Sunday drove Kato's men from what he called an MILF training camp to the remote village of Pasaw in Mamasapano.

Solazar said the Pasaw camp fell yesterday after an overnight artillery barrage and a bombing run by an OV10 aircraft.

On Friday, the military also claimed to have captured Kato's satellite facility—called Camp Vietnam—in nearby Datu Piang after pounding it with artillery fire and air strikes. Solazar did not give details on what that facility was or how many rebels were dislodged there.

3 KATO CAMPS A2

US, Malaysia asked: Why are you backing MOA?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OPPOSITION SENATORS YESTERday called on the United States, Malaysia and other countries pushing for a peace pact creating an expanded Moro homeland to spell out their motives in endorsing the controversial memorandum of agreement (MOA).

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano also raised questions on why the Philippine government had "curiously" chosen to charge Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who pillaged several towns in Lanao and North Cotabato as criminals rather than as terrorists.

"It would be naive to think that there are no foreign interests at play in the signing of the MOA," Cayetano said in an interview with DZBB radio.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also expressed his concern over the perceived intervention by foreign interests in the proposed peace pact.

"I can only hope that Malaysia is a sincere broker for peace and has not trained its sights on the Liguasan Marsh (referring to the Moro stronghold in Mindanao). I also hope that the United States has no colonial interests in this part of the globe," Pimentel said in a text message to the Inquirer.

US, MALAYSIA A4

Madonna lumps Hitler, Mugabe with McCain

CARDIFF, WALES—EVEN AT 50, the queen of pop just can't stop courting controversy.

MADONNA A8

'The most suspicious soldier on the tarmac'

By Fe Zamora

(fifth of a series)

OVER TWO DECADES AFTER THE assassination of opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Sgt. Rolando de Guzman can still see the grin on Rolando Galman's face on that sweltering afternoon of Aug. 21, 1983.

Prisoner No. 140213 would be haunted by the grin. This was what De Guzman confided to Msgr. Roberto Olaguer, the chaplain.

"He could not forget Galman's face, that Galman was laughing, that Galman looked very happy. Riding on Ninoy Aquino (Aquino jumping for joy), I did it! I did it!" Olaguer quoted De Guzman as saying.

In the report of the Agrava Board which investigated the double

THE MOST A4

EX-AMBASSADOR Leonida Vera holds the hand of Bishop Socrates Villegas at a thanksgiving Mass. MARY LOPEZ

Bishop hails ex-envoy for spotless stint

By Kristine L. Alave

POLITICIANS AND OTHER government officials should learn from Leonida Vera, former ambassador to the Vatican, who left her post after four years of service with her integrity intact and her reputation unstained, Bishop Socrates Villegas said.

Vera resigned on Jan. 23 after news reached her that someone

BISHOP A8

Second FRONTPAGE

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Senators threaten to probe Sulpicio

Letting ships sail premature in light of mishaps, say Cayetano, Pimentel

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OPPOSITION SENATORS ARE THREATENING TO open an investigation into the record of Sulpicio Lines, owner of the M/V Princess of the Stars, whose sinking in June left hundreds dead, saying the decision to allow it to operate again was "unacceptable" to the public.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said yesterday Congress would not take "sitting down" the government's move allowing Sulpicio carry passengers on its fleet again.

Cayetano was reacting to an Aug. 6 order of the Board of Marine Inquiry, which said it would allow Sulpicio to resume passenger-cargo vessel operations as long as it tapped an International Safety Management (ISM) certified ship management company to oversee and upgraded the maintenance warnings of its passengers, crew and cargo.

Sulpicio's passenger ships have been grounded since the sinking of the Princess of the Stars, but its cargo vessels had been allowed to sail because Sulpicio wanted to a double check of the sea cargo industry.

Cayetano suggested the Senate might join the House of Representatives in launching an inquiry of the lists, which for garnered one build the record for the worst maritime disaster in peacetime with the sinking of its ship, the Doña Pia, in which thousands died.

Look into entire record

"I don't think it is acceptable to the public for the government to let this company continue to operate after it had been involved in a number of sea mishaps from which it has escaped without any sanctions," Cayetano said.

He said the Senate might not only look into Sulpicio's latest disaster, the sinking of the Princess of the Stars, but also its entire shipping record.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he wanted to examine the Board of Marine Inquiry report to determine whether Sulpicio had been punished enough.

"Sulpicio has killed thousands and it appears it has not paid enough in its victims," he said.

Cayetano said that "for sure last that it has been found to be accident-prone" should've nudged the government to put its foot down and tell Sulpicio that it was not fit for the shipping business and should never see in other areas.

'How can you compensate?'

"Whether a company has had luck for having too many accidents, why should the Department of Transportation and Communications and other maritime agencies look into their issuance of certificates of public convenience and tell them point-blank 'look, you are transporting lives and not just goods that you can compensate. How can you pay for lost lives?'" Cayetano said.

With 45 shipping disasters in 20 years or so record, Cayetano said the government had no choice but to show it means business when it comes to the safety of passengers.

"I don't want to be unfair to the company and declare its guilt or innocence in the accidents, but surely the government must make a firm commitment and show it means business when it comes to the safety of its citizens. And so far the administration and other administrations have been busy in ensuring the safety of sea travel, especially with this company," he said.

Cayetano added that there were still many questions and issues that remained unresolved in the BMI probe.

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Shipwreck town lifts itself from tragedy

By Tarra Quismundo

TOWNSFOLK LAY CRAWL ON WASHED-out roads. Residents struggled to clear beach sands after the Typhoon "Frank" and the sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars, residents of San Fernando on Sibuyan Island, Romblon, are slowly trudging from the depths of the two-month-old tragedy hoping life would soon return to normal.

The tough a ₱900,000-cash-for-work program funded by the Department of Labor and Employment, some 370 families have started to rebuild their lives, said San Fernando Mayor Nanette Tanalegon.

"This will benefit some 20 percent of the most affected families," Tanalegon said in an interview during a visit to Manila last week. "We proposed the project on July 28, we got the approval on Aug. 12 when I was given half of the total project cost. I was told we were given the I argree funding compared to other Romblon towns."

Weeks without livelihood

Because of a total fishing ban, land residents had gone for weeks without any livelihood. Now they serve as manpower in the town's rehabilitation efforts.

The fishing ban has been lifted except within five kilometers of the ill-fated ferry, which sank in waters close to shore with some 800 people aboard, of unconfirmed reports still in its hull.

For Tanalegon's group, "It's almost normal now" in San Fernando, a close-knit town where everybody knows their neighbor and relatives are counted like old friends.

In the towns ravaged barangays of Makiki, Agnipa and Malbala, shore-side roads pounded by typhoon-spurred waves have been repaired and quick-remedy in lieu of more expensive repairing.

The river-crossed system has been repaired to contain the town's clear waters as they drain into Sibuyan Sea.

"In Poblacion (the town center), we are dechopping creeks that were silted with mud," Tanalegon said.

A 13-day community training started last week with the help of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

"We were given a fund of ₱100,000 for their stipend, and those enrolled earn ₱195 a day," the mayor said proudly.

Massage therapy

A group of 25 residents has been working on improvised oil spill booms, a simple contraption made from coconut husk and bamboo. The booms contain off the upturned ships exposed but is also possible oil seepage.

Another group of 25 people has been training in basic physical therapy, a timely course, as Coast Guard officers stationed on ships look forward to a massage after a hard day's work.

Meanwhile, the town continues to wait for the Department of Agriculture's promised weekly subsidy of six kilos of rice for San Fernando's fisherfolk, Tanalegon said.

The local government is also looking forward to the Funding the Department of Social Welfare and Development earmarked to rebuild damaged homes in the town, especially those near the shoreline.

Brace yourself

Fishermen who depend on relief for their daily sustenance showed considerable weight loss because they has done livelihood, said the mayor.

"When we serve there or distribute hazardous like pitchers, plates, spoons and forks, the residents tell us 'We prefer food,' recalled Tanalegon.

The town is bracing itself for the start of relocation searches long operations at the shipwreck, as authorities officials are cognizant of to start next month.

Tanalegon said the saloon hired by ship owner Sulpicio Lines Inc. was expected to begin the retrieval of the next cargo on Sept. 1.

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ALLIED BANK

Mabuhay MILES

Dawn impressed with non-surgical light treatment that can visibly rejuvenate skin after 30 minutes!

Actress Dawn Zulueta is all praises for IPL, the non-surgical photorejuvenation treatment at Facial Care Centre. "One of my problems has always been the eruption of acne, which causes my blemishes," she reveals. "Since my skin is oily, I became prone to it. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough to do without make-up because my skin is clear and even."

What is IPL?

IPL stands for Intense Pulsed Light treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to painlessly and safely treat different skin problems.

What can IPL treat?

IPL can help remove dark spots, blemishes, freckles, skin discoloration, spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other pigmentations on the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere these skin imperfections may appear. It can also control the skin's oil production and prevent the onset of acne breakouts. This made IPL appeal to Dawn, who has naturally oily, acne-prone skin. Since IPL heats up the underlying dermis (a deeper layer beneath the skin's superficial layer), it stimulates the skin cells to produce more collagen, repairing skin damage and promoting healthier, younger-looking skin.

What results can be expected from IPL?

Aside from clearing up the dark spots and blemishes, IPL gives skin a flawless complexion even without make-up. Pores are refined, giving the skin a smoother texture. Dawn happily claims she can confidently go out with only sunblock on her face because of her regular IPL treatments. Immediately after an IPL treatment, clients attest they get compliments for having a noticeably healthy, pinkish glow on their skin.

How long before I can see them?

Visible results are definitely noticed upon the first treatment of IPL. Pores are tightened, and the skin appears to have a more even complexion. Over time, one can see more improvements on their skin's appearance and texture as dark spots, blemishes, freckles, spider veins and other skin flaws are diminished. Dawn noticed the significant reduction of oil and breakouts on her 3rd treatment of IPL, and continued to see an improvement in her complexion after regular IPL treatments.

During an IPL treatment

How and / how during the treatment?

The treatment is painless, as it only uses a broad spectrum of light over the areas to be treated. It only takes approximately 30 minutes, and has no downtime. In fact, one can go on their regular schedule right after an IPL treatment! It's that quick and easy!

IPL is an ideal treatment for women who lead active and busy lifestyles because they can conveniently fit IPL treatments in their hectic schedules. With quick visible results and relatively no downtime, it is definitely a must-do for women who want to get beautiful, flawless skin without the hassles! Call Facial Care Centre at 892-5406 (Tlnk), Cebu (032-7631 (30) and Pampanga (961-0404/05).

US, Malaysia asked: Why are you backing MOA?

By Inquirer staff

Former Senate President Frank Drilon, in a statement, cited pressure from the United States and China for the Philippine government's decision to press reconsolation to the MILF has claimed 120,000 lives, forcing it scheduled to resume for Aug. 26.

Drilon is one of those who joined a petition by Muslimun officials protesting the inclusion of seven under their jurisdiction to the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) that has all the territories of the state. He said the deal was unconstitutional.

'Talks to go on'

Malacañang yesterday stressed that the peace talks would be continue peace talks with the MILF but that this would only happen after the court had decided on the MOA.

"The talks are not suspended. We are just waiting for the high court ruling," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. "Let it not be misunderstood that because of this fighting that we have stopped the peace process."

The MILF has said that field commanders unhappy with the court's intervention had gone on the rampage in Mindanao. (See banner story on Page A1.)

Senior Secretary Raul Gonzalez said militants against the MOA were against the Constitution.

Gonzalez said Malaysia, which facilitated the peace negotiations conducted in secrecy, was primarily concerned in defending its stake over Sabah which the Philippines, under then President Ferdinand Marcos, had sought to include in Philippine territory.

US endorsement

"Malaysia has pushed to develop its power in the last 30 years to protect Sabah. By endorsing themselves on the MILF, the Malaysians are also protecting their interest in Sabah," Gonzalez said.

He questioned Washington's endorsement of the MOA. He said US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was not only invited to the aborted signing in Kuala Lumpur but the also declined support for the MOA in spite of the public outcry against the deal.

"America is looking for a foothold in the Islamic world whether it is in the Middle East or other parts like Asia. If there will be RJE, it means the US will not pass through the central government and they don't have to deal with NGOs, activists against nuclear arms and other restrictions in the Constitution. They can also give foreign aid directly to the RJE," he said.

Cayetano said other foreign countries, such as China and the Arab world, were looking at the RJE and its impact on the balance of power in this side of the world.

This is why he said, it was important for all the interested foreign parties to declare their view of the MILF...whether they consider them as a freedom fighter or terrorist organization because by their actions, "we will have a grasp of their agenda."

Terrorist tag

If the MILF is considered a terrorist organization like the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, Cayetano said the government would have more tools to stamp out the Moro rebels.

He mentioned legal wiretapping and monitoring of bank accounts to determine whether foreign aid was being used to bankroll MILF operations.

Cayetano said that the reason the dengue filed against the MILF negot elements would have to be dropped because the court would declare them as politically motivated crimes.

Had they been charged with violations of the Anti-Terror law, Cayetano said, all of the MILF would have been trusted by the military.

Drilon expressed alarm over MILF Chair Ibrahim Murad's direct appeal to the Malaysian government to review the Philippine peace and urge the military to stop hunting down rogue MILF elements that attacked Lanao and North Cotabato.

"I hope Malacañang will find the moral courage to send a diplomatic note to Malaysia, saying in no uncertain terms that the Philippine government will implement its laws against criminals who attack and murder innocent civilians," Drilon said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverría

'The most suspicious soldier on the tarmac'

By Inquirer staff

Taliwag of Aguinaldo and Galman, the alleged masterminds, Philippine Marines ground engineer Rolando Bidong testified by new Gilmore grin as the soldiers just after the first shot was heard.

According to the report, Bidong had a full view of Galman's back and seized arms. But he did not see Galman's hands or whether he was holding a gun. Bidong also saw the soldiers shoot Galman. The engineer, however, said he did not see who shot Aquino. All he heard was a gunshot and when he looked in the direction of the gunfire, he saw Galman sprawling at the soldiers.

Based on Olagpier's recollection of Dr. Gutman's movement, the surgeon was standing on the rear bumper of the SWAT van when Aquino was shot. Gutman, he said, did not see who shot Aquino. All he heard was a gunshot and when he looked in the direction of the gunfire, he saw Galman sprawling at the soldiers.

Based on Olagpier's recollection of Dr. Gutman's movement, the surgeon was standing on the rear bumper of the SWAT van when Aquino was shot. Gutman, he said, did not see who shot Aquino. All he heard was a gunshot and when he looked in the direction of the gunfire, he saw Galman sprawling at the soldiers.

A barricaded sharpshooter, Dr. Gutman pulled his .45-cal. pistol and trained it on the assailant, who was grinning, almost laughing at the soldiers. He seemed to be telling them, "I did it! I did it!"

Dr. Gutman would not be distracted. He pulled the trigger. Bang! He fired again. And again. The grin on Galman's face disappeared into a grimace as his back hit the tarmac, just a few feet away from the prone figure of the man in white, Ninoy Aquino.

Dr. Gutman quickly closed the metal door of the van, leaving it slightly ajar, intently listening to conversations from the outside. Several voices from ten on the rural bench running along the side of the van, Sgt. Ernesto Mateo gripped his armalite. Sgt. Rodolfo Dacoleng was shouting: "May kabuhol! Baka! Baka! (There's an enemy! Go down! Go down!)"

Gunplay expected

The door of the van opened wide. Blame jumped out, aimed his armalite at the body of Galman. ABC Cordelia Linela followed suit, shot Dr. Gutman, a fusillade reverberated across the airport.

Galman's arm jerked upward as Dr. Gutman's empty magazine hit .45-cal. pistol on the body of the fellow dressed as an airline mainte- nance crew member.

Among the members of Team Alpha assigned to the airport mission, Dr. Gutman alone was expecting gunplay that day. He announced it to himself, in the morning, when the SWAT van drove onto the territory of ground of the airport.

"You think there's no action today? This just wait," he crowed, cocking his .45-cal. automatic at the same time. The other soldiers just looked at him, holding on to their armalite rifles.

'Best shot'

Dr. Gutman knew because M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez let him in on a "secret" one day in July. Meeting behind the carpool, Martinez recruited Dr. Gutman to the "special operation team" in preparation for the return of Aquino from US exile. It was a secret mission on orders of Col. Romeo Orbeta, deputy chief of the Aviation Security Command (Avsecom).

Martinez was not the only one interested in Dr. Gutman's skills as a marksman. On Aug. 19, Orbeta sent his driver, Sgt. Franklin Manlapaz, to assist his Avsecom's "best shot." Manlapaz ended up talking to Dr. Gutman.

The ace shot would not be seen around the office premises until Aug. 21. He showed up just as Team Alpha was preparing to drive off for the tarmac.

Capt. Felipe Valerio, commanding officer of the Special Operations Squadron (SOS), did not want Dr. Gutman in Team Alpha. When Dr. Gutman boarded the van, Valerio ordered him to get off. The surgeon boarded the van again; Valerio ordered him to get off again. Valerio's actions puzzled the soldiers.

Sometime before 7 a.m., Orbeta sent Valerio the final instruction. "Kinukuha ng opisina ni Gutman (Gutman's office is the one to contact." When Valerio held the final briefing on Dylan Buildthepeace, the much-vaunted military security plan for Aquino's arrival, he made sure Dr. Gutman was there.

Dr. Gutman had to be on the tarmac because he had "shoot-to-kill" orders from Orbeta. The specific target was "anyone who would do harm to Aquino." Soldiers at the airport, it did not matter. Orders were orders.

Vivid recollection

Dr. Gutman's recollection of what happened was always vivid. He would show Olagpier how Galman had ducked from under the aircraft stairs and fired a gun at Aquino's head. Dr. Gutman, his feet on the bumper of the van, aimed at Galman's head and fired.

Olagpier understood Dr. Gutman's predicament. "I think he's suffering from bad conscience," he said.

Dr. Gutman was also suffering from hypertension, diabetes and assorted complications resulting from two strokes that left half of his body paralyzed.

When the heaviest one hit in February, Dr. Gutman could hardly talk. His speech was slurred, his eyes often out of focus. Saliva dribbled from his mouth.

He was first to be removed of his body, which had become blessed with his. He had also become emotional.

"Ang laki ng kaibahan, iyakin naman (He's a big man but a crybaby). I can't bear to see him," Olagpier said. He felt for Gutman knew more than what he said was bothering him.

The conspiracy had been done long before Olagpier came into the picture.

'Why are you here?'

For Team Alpha, Martinez topped the list of "suspects" who "knew" the real story behind the Aquino assassination.

Martinez had no assignment in Dylan Buildthepeace. He was here as Valerio's briefing that morning in the squadron's office in the Quick Reaction Center.

Yes, when Aquino's body was loaded onto the van, Martinez quickly followed.

"Why are you here? You were not at the briefing? Get out, get out!" the troops shouted.

Amid the silence, one soldier pointed his armalite at Martinez.

Hovering chopper

Hovering over the FAIO was was a Huey UH-1H helicopter, flashing most tension among the Team Alpha members. Friend or foe? They did not know who were in the Valley. The smell of gunpowder and blood rushed to the van.

"That's enough. Stop it," Captain Valerio barked from the front seat. "Leave him alone."

The van sped to the Army communications center unit in Fort Bonifacio. Valerio showed the senator's bloodied body to an officer in hoving waiting. After 20 minutes, the driver proceeded to the Army hospital, where Aquino was pronounced dead on arrival.

Martinez never explained to Team Alpha why he was on the tarmac that day.

Never told Agrava Board

Neither did Martinez reveal to the Criminal Investigation Service and the Agrava Board created by President Ferdinand Marcos to investigate the Aquino slaying, that he had been on the tarmac. Martinez, whom he could carry on his mission of shooting the unarming senator.

Martinez was introduced to Galman by Orbeto at the Garden Hotel on Aug. 15. With Orbeto and Galman were retired Brig. Gen. Romeo Gaoiat, former chief of the Northern Luzon Command, and his in-law, billionaire businessman Hermilo Cruzeiro.

Galman was released on bail from the Camp Olivas custody in December 1982. Nine months later, he was the subject of a new warrant issued for the holding of a forcible felonies delivery run in Nueva Ecija.

Martinez was told that Aquino would be shot upon arrival at the airport and that Galman was the designated triggerman.

In their final briefing on the morning of Aug. 21, Galan instructed Martinez to shoot Galman if Galman failed to shoot the former senator. Galman was also given the impression that the soldiers assigned to escort Aquino knew about his role in the plot.

Secretive sergeants

Martinez kept the secret to himself.

Indicted by the Agrava Board, Martinez and the Team Alpha members were ordered transferred from Camp Aguinaldo to Nichols Air Base, while undergoing trial before the Sandiganbayan.

The special court acquitted them in late 1985. The Edsa People Power Revolution in February 1986 ended the Marcos dictatorship. Months later, the Supreme Court had the case reopened, ordering Martinez and company back to the sandiganbayan in Hilmanan.

The confinement served to revive old doubts and suspicions.

The accused soldiers were particularly watchful of Martinez and his buddy, the Gutman, because of their suspicions and links from the Villamor stockade.

Martinez was also concerned since called the "secretive sergeants."

When the two took off on a military jeep, he followed on his bicycle. He trailed them to the home of Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, their former chief at Avsecom and one of the principal accused, who was then under house arrest.

The suspicions got worse when the accused were moved from Villamor to Bluestripes to begin their double-life sentences in September 1990.

Blame game

When Olagpier first met the convicts in December that year, the chaplain recalled Martinez in a flying scream the room, "Sir, 'Ting may mga sabi dyan, magsalita na ito na ito, nasa Bilibid na siya (Those who are in the know should start talking. Things have changed, we are already in Bilibid)."

"They were blaming each other; they were blind," Olagpier said.

The convicts were shy to speak out openly in others & may common graffiti on the walls of the prison dormitory and toilet rooms.

One graffiti said: "Walang libro sa Ateneo nabubuang. Walang kalo-ca kasi' dala-gaan. (Nothing remains a secret. Everything that you will read.)"

The convicts was to pry open the conscience of the soldier who may have known about the plot.

Among themselves, the convicts worked to strip away the layers of compartmentalization ingrained in their military training.

The targets of their "conscientization" included Dr. Gutman, because he seemed to know that was going to be a "shooting" that day: ex-Sgt. Claro Lat, one of Aquino's escorts, who urged the senator to hurry down the stairs seconds before he was shot, and Martinez, the solid man who showed up on the tarmac even though he had no assignment with Dylan Buildthepeace.

If he were around, Captain Valerio would have been a target too, for ordering the troops to "ignore Martinez," the most suspicious soldier on the tarmac.

(Editor's note: This part of the series on the Aquino assassination was based on interviews with Msgr. Antonio Olagpier, chaplain at the Met Bilibid Prisons; lawyer Virgilio Pablico, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group legal division, who was a Criminal Investigation Service investigator in 1983; ex-Sgt. Ernesto Mateo, one of the 16 soldiers convicted for the Aquino slaying; convicted Mllgt. Jaime Canieso Jubair, driver of the 1960F van; and the sworn statements of convicted sergeants Rolando de Guzman, Rodolfo Dacoleng, Ruben Agcaoi and Pablo Martinez, which were filed in August 2004 in their bid to reopen their case.)

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Hunger-striking moms warned about using tots

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) yesterday warned the mothers staging a hunger strike in Tatalon Ge. cidered that crimi nal charges would be filed against them if they continued to have their children participate in the protest action.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima also ordered a CHR team to rescue 19 children, including infants, following the death of a three-year-old boy who had suffered from diarrhea and high fever on the picket line.

The coalition staging picketing in Cubao, Quezon City on July 9 to demand the release of their husbands, who had been detained on charges of illegal logging, Civil groups Bayan and Bantay Bata 163 have joined their cause.

Task Force Batas—a team of policemen and provincial government employees who go after those who violate forestry regulations—apprehended the launch 13 men who are now locked up in the city police station, based on a tip from an informant.

"While we empathize with the conditions of the mothers, who are there to give moral support to their husbands pending the resolution of their case, we at the CHR would not allow ourselves to see the children's health deteriorate, which may lead to another death," De Lima said in a statement.

"The children must be rescued at once by all means," she said.

According to the CHR investigating team monitoring the hunger strike, the children, who joined their mothers on the picket line, were vulnerable to dust, scorching heat during the day and bitter cold at night.

Such conditions resulted in the death of the boy and the confinement of his younger brother in a hospital, the team said.

"The parents can be held criminally liable for exposing their children to the dangers and risks with such kind of environment," said De Lima, citing Republic Act No. 7610 or the Special Provisions of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination.

"From all angles, we see violations of the human rights of the children, and it's a global sight indeed," she added.

Lamenting the children were being exploited, De Lima directed the CHR team to closely coordinate with the local government unit, health officials and Department of Social Welfare and Development to urgently address the "alarming incident."

She also urged local officials to forcibly take the children from the picket line and place them in the care of government social workers if the parents fail to take them home.

Lagman: No money in bill for me

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOW A "FULL-TIME" PROMOTER OF the reproductive health bill, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman yesterday confronted a persistent accusation—that he was making money from his so-called advocacy.

"That's totally devoid of any basis!" he thundered in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

Lagman said there was no truth to allegations he and other supporters of the Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2008 were fronting for foreign institutions seeking to establish a highly lucrative contraceptives market in the Philippines.

The scheme purportedly begins with a national policy for "reproductive health," which would then lead to the legalization of abortion, as is the trend in many countries.

File copying

The bill's most salient feature that has drawn controversy allows for the use of all types of contraceptives, in contrast to current Philippine policy.

While interpellating councilor Abayon Rep. Rita Imelda Moreno recently, Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, a Protestant bishop, asked the "pro-choice" lawmaker whether the bill she was prosponing had in fact been copied from a similar measures introduced elsewhere in the world.

Henderson replied it had not.

Abante's question drew rumor from the proposed American strategy of push-ing for a uniform population control bill in Third World countries like the Philippines, partly for economic motives.

Lagman invited critics to examine the political leanings of the bill's principal authors. He said he and the group were all "nationalists," which was shown by their solid support of the Cheaper Medicines Law.

"We fought all those multinational companies for the Cheaper Medicines Law," he said. "So how can we collaborate with them now?"

P2 billion for reproductive health

Lagman said he was devoting more time to the reproductive health bill after stepping down as chair of the committee on appropriations.

He will be replaced on the committee by Quirino Rep. Junie Cua with whom he had a little chasing agreement.

At least of the powerful appropriations committee, Lagman successfully worked for the allocation of P2 billion for reproductive health programs in the 22006 national budget.

He said the money was still there, just like the P150 million allocation for the same purpose in the annual budget the year before. He said the government would need another P2 billion to save year's budget to implement the initial phases of his reproductive health bill.

Lagman's campaign for a reproductive health bill runs parallel to similar efforts by a number of local government units such as Quezon City.

He described the LGUs as "cooperative partners," while denying allegations they were the first soldiers in a "back door" effort for a population control bill.

Lagman said both the national and local governments were working simultaneously for a reproductive health policy but admitted the strategy was "not a perfect one."

"We still need a national policy that is comprehensive in scope and adequately funded, " he said.

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Beijing Olympics end with mixed legacy

From page A1

tore parked into the National Stadium.

"These were truly exceptional Games," Rogge said. "And now, to nevertheless match its ambitious, I declare the Games of the 29th Olympiad closed, and I call upon the youth of the world to assemble here four years from now in London to celebrate the Games of the 30th Olympiad."

A $42-billion exercise in public relations on an unprecedented scale, China's Olympics dazzled the world, an irrefutably showcasing-the display of might, modern-day economy, of ethnicity and architecture.

The host surpassed the United States as the most powerful sports nation, finishing well clear atop the medals table with 15 more golds than the Americans.

To a large extent, the emergent superpower got what it had craved from the Games—a dominant effort by its athletes to top the gold-medal standings for the first time and almost glitch-free organizing that showcased world-class venues and cheerful volunteers in the linguist-ready potential influx of foreign visitors.

As a bonus, not just one but two athletes gave arguably the greatest performances in Olympic history—Michael Phelps with his eight gold medals in surpassing Jamaican sheilleve Usain Bolt with three golds and three world records in the sprints.

IOC: A positive legacy

The IOC brushed aside criticism of its decision to hold the Games in China by said the Olympics could not solve all the world's problems, but argued they had left a positive legacy for China.

"The world learned more about China, and China learned more about the rest of world," Rogge said. "The IOC and the Olympic Games cannot force changes on sovereign nations or solve all the ills of the world. But we can—and we do—contribute to positive change through sport."

Despite the dazzle, though, not everyone was convinced by China's refashioned image.

Rogge said the IOC were criticized by human rights groups for their reluctance to publicly challenge the Chinese on various controversies arose over press freedoms and detentions of dissidents.

US disappointed

The United States was less enthusiastic, pressing for the immediate release of eight Americans detained for staging protests in favor of Tibetan independence during the Games.

"We are disappointed that China has not used the occasion of the Olympics to demonstrate greater tolerance and openness," the US Embassy said.

The prize medals may perhaps less forgiving and forgetful.

Protests may have been successfully suppressed, but China's political reach was not always sure.

The spate of game-stopping soldiers carrying the Olympic flag disturbed some onlookers at the opening ceremony.

Public imagination was stirred more vigorously when it emerged that a young girl had lip-synched a key song at the ceremony because the original singer was not pretty enough.

Britain's Financial Times said the contrivance undermined the image of a modern, dynamic China and reinforced the view of the Beijing government as "control freaks."

As the helmet of Olympics' organizers, authorities officially licensed three public parks around Beijing as protest areas.

Unfortunately, they did not license any protests, turning away at least 77 applications.

'Bad Faith Olympics'

Two women, both over 70, were sentenced in a year's confinement for pushing their protest application too vigorously. Because of their age, they were allowed to serve the sentence outside a designated reeducation camp.

In an editorial, the New York Times criticized Beijing's "Bad Faith Olympics," and said the final gold medal—"for undermine human management" should be awarded to China's Communist Party leadership.

"Beijing got what it wanted out of this globally televised spectacle. It reaped a huge prestige bonanza that it will surely use to promote its international influence and, we fear, further tighten its grip at home," it said.

At Human Rights Watch in Washington, data advocacy director Sophie Richardson was more modestly measured.

"The image that people have come away with internationally is of control. (Its) athletes, great architecture—and a kind of creepy government," she said.

43 world records broken

Led by Phelps and Bolt, athletes broke 43 world records and 132 Olympic records during the Games.

Yet Rogge said the most touching moment for him came after the 13-melee an pitted crew, when gold medalist Wan Lindawadan of Georgia embraced runner-up Natalia Ishchina of Russia—two in their race countries' armies fought back in Georgia.

Highlights of Sunday's closing ceremony were to include a duet by tenor Placido Domingo and Chinese soprano Song Zuying, and a display by several hundred Tang fa practitioners from a martial arts school. AP Reuters and AFP

Survivors recall MILF rebel attacks

By Nas G. Ortega
Inquirer Mindanao

KOLAMBUGAN, LANAO DEL Norte—40 for a huge years and a little sense of her tiny hand, week-old Friendly Fatima dozed off on a mat as if nothing happened.

Her was only two days old when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels rampaged down on their community in Lapayan in Barangay town. She survived because her mother, 22-year-old Rogelyn, still recovering from childbirth, was as fast as she could to safety.

Baby Friendly is the sister of 2-year-old Love-love, who, together with her mother Jocelyn Fernando, 36, was killed by the rebels during the Aug. 18 rampage.

"I believe my husband was cradling her in his arms when they were shot. He was hit in the chest, while Love-love was hit in the head," Rogelyn said.

The MILF attacks on civilians in Lanao del Norte two years brought the first among those who survived. But the healing of wounds, physical and psychological, is another thing.

Boy rebels

At Kolambugan Riverside National High School, where evacuees are staying, two teenagers talked about their ordeal in the hands of MILF rebels whose duty described as between 13 and 15 years old.

"The rebels were so young as me," Randel Salvada, 17, said almost in a whisper while resting a glance at his mother, Rogelyn, who was lying and placed through the wooden floor of their house and hit him.

Salvada's father was also wounded in the hand and shoulder, and is still in a hospital in Oroquie City.

A few moments after the shooting, the young rebels headed the door open and ordered Salvada and the rest of his family: "Get out or be burned alive inside."

After the family were seniors, the rebels returned to the house and continued firing.

They "massacred" the inside of the house including our clothes," Randel said. "I (still) have one of those 'massacred' shirts with me here (at the evacuation center). Would you like me to show you?" he asked with childlike enthusiasm.

The Salvados marched down to the highway to join other residents who were also on foot when their car was fired upon by the rebels. Their new bodies along the way. "I didn't have time to be afraid," he said. "I just tended to my wounds."

Rude awakening

His neighbor, William Ibrahim, 18, also had a rude awakening that morning when their vehicle fired upon their homes in Pantao.

"The gunmen were so loud," he recalled. "The house was filled with smoke."

His father Flaumen, 45, and his cousin, Jolan, were killed. Jolan was hit in the head because he stood up during the firing, Ibrahim said.

"As to my father, I don't really know what happened. I think he was stabbed because others who saw him said his throat spilled out," he said.

Ibrahim, who was hit in the left arm, escaped with his mother and brother by crawling through some of their house and hiding in the bush.

"I got hit because I failed to duck on time," he said. "I knew I was hit because my arm suddenly felt numb."

Unlike Salvado, Ibrahim said he was afraid the whole time. "I could no longer swallowed when I saw boiling fear."

For what the MILF rebels did, Ibrahim said he was angry. But he indeed resigned to the fact that he could do nothing about it. "I'll just leave it to the military," he said.

Body language

The two young survivors were interviewed by Jacianne Rodil of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology's Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao. Their body language betrayed their true emotional pain, she said.

"If you observed closely their hands and fingers, they were restricting as they recounted the events," Rodil said.

It is was a cause for Rodil and Pelham to be able to enroll what happened, to enroll be a blessing to dispatch for Baby Friendly.

She had awakened suddenly because of the noise. This is her name, she gave a friendly look and went back to sleep.

Her mother, Rogelyn, said: "I cry be the most unlucky victim here." She is constantly confronted by the thought of other ones going to happen to her and her newborn, and the rest of her children who survived—Bienlyn, 13, Jeffery, 11, and Jamery, 7.

Despite her double tragedy, Rogelyn managed to smile as she gently cradled Friendly's forehead.

Rodil described the women as a very strong person. "She knows how it up. Others would have crumbled already. It's Baby Friendly that keeps her focused."

2 Kato camps fall, says AFP

From page A1

In all, Salazar said, MILF fighters had been driven away from five villages.

Agence France-Presse, in a report ascribed to military spokesperson Col. Julieto Ando, said more than 100 MILF fighters had been killed in four days of fighting.

The figures could not independently confirm Ando's claim. Eslaba said only that the MILF had suffered seven dead and eight wounded.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that as of yesterday, 151 soldiers and four militiamen had been killed and 612 soldiers wounded, mostly in ambushes in Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) in Camp Aguinaldo said 49 civilians had been killed and 65 wounded in the upsurge of violence in Mindanao since the collapse of a memorandum of agreement with the MILF in Malaysia on Aug. 5. Wrapped impatient MILF commanders to go on a rampage.

240,000 affected

The NDCC said fighting had also "affected" 240,000 people who were either robbery victims, or had their homes reduced or burned, or had lost their livelihood. Of the affected people, 75,000 remained in 104 evacuation centers.

Salazar told the Inquirer in a phone interview that the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion overran the Pusaw camp located near the boundary of Mamasapano and Datu Piang towns at 3 p.m. yesterday and that there was only "token resistance."

Eslaba also said that aside from fighting in Maguindanao, MILF rebels were also engaged in clashes with the military in Barangay Pusaong, Manicon, Sarangani, Bliss, Sapap, North Catabato, and Gumbo, Kabacan, Magpetdanao.

He said that face to five days ago, the military attacked the MILF's peacekeeping task force in Sitio Sunsit suspicious in Maguindanao while trying to retrieve the bodies of the Ranger troops whose there had been a "rift" or clan war.

"We are on active defense. We can also attack as long as it's necessary," he added.

A serious blow

The military said the fall of the MILF camp in Pusaw was a serious blow to Kato's 105th Base Command. Kato reportedly leads 500-1,000 fighters of the 11,000-strong MILF.

Salazar said the new forward camp was fortified with trenches and even had a "reinforced section." He said it was strategically located on the main road and near the boundary of Mamasapano and Datu Piang towns.

It was among the series of MILF camps that fell to overrun Ligawasa Marsh, a Moro stronghold, Salazar said.

He said "intense" fighting raged from midnight and up to 8 a.m. yesterday. He said the MILF rebels got reinforcement and troops were forced to move "inch by inch forward" to the camp.

"Then there was a lull in the fighting with only sporadic firing," Ogbay, Salazar said.

He said four soldiers had been killed and around 20 others wounded in his battalion since they search for Kato began Aug. 28.

The 601st Army Brigade is ranked with going after Kato, who along with comrade Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Toraya, has been charged with murder, assault and illegal detention by the government.

The government has also offered a P5-million bounty for anyone who could lead the military to Kato and Bravo.

No plan to surrender Kato

In a news conference on Saturday at Camp Darapanan, the main MILF camp in Sultan Kudarat, MILF chief Ibrahim Murad insisted he would not surrender Kato. Murad said Kato's men have invaded the camp and will when both peace panels return to the negotiating table.

Murad had called for a halt to the military operations as he expressed the MILF's willingness to go back to negotiations.

Also yesterday, local heads on checkies reported that five civilians from several Datu Piang villages in Maguindanao had been killed in the military air strikes and artillery shelling. Three children were reported wounded in the attacks.

Dr. Elizabeth Somera, Maguindanao provincial health officer, identified the fatalities as Nonedy Abubakar, 11, of Barangay Salibo; Saliliman Guimanu, 60, of Barangay Simuay; Ali Mandi Tiop, 47, of Barangay Balanakong; and seven-month pregnant Salmiya Glomdang, 33, and a certain Indig, 66, of Barangay Mentay.

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US hoops back on top, beats Spain for gold

KOBE Bryant (top, right) joins other members of the US team in celebration after beating Spain in the men's basketball final at the Beijing Olympics. AP

Francaise Al

"Forty years...the first US gold medal since the 2000 Olympics. (Our related story in Sports, Page A27.)

"Much respect to Spain, but the US is back on top again," LeBron James said.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points for the Americans, who found much tougher Spanish team than the one they humiliated by 37 points earlier in the tournament. Kobe Bryant, who turned 30 the day before the final, added 20.

The Americans, who were the last favorites, had too much offense down the stretch. Bryant converted a clutch four-point play with 3:10 remaining, holding his finger to his lips to quiet the rowdy Spanish crowd behind the basket.

Wade added another 3-pointer that made it 111-104 with just over 2 minutes left, and only then could the Americans relax a little.

'Born in the USA'

The Americans began to celebrate during a break after some technical fouls on Spain with 28 seconds left.

When the final buzzer sounded, they whooped with joy, formed a huddle and danced around the center circle.

Chants of "USA, USA" erupted from the crowd of 18,000, with "Born in the USA" blaring over the arena's speakers.

"I'm proud of our guys. We played with great character to one of the great games in international basketball history. I think," US coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Unlikely title foe? Some rising to the American to Beijing. This team's only Olympic competition had been history, in a Dream match-up with guys named Jordan, Magic, Bird and the core of the US team that dominated the Barcelona Games in 1992.

Forget comparisons to those guys. The Americans were lucky to be better than Spain on Sunday.

Rudy Fernandez scored 22 points and Pau Gasol had 21 for the Spaniards, the reigning world champions who were hoping to win their first Olympic gold.

Long embrace

US players appreciated the tough game that Spain gave them. After the contest, they hugged the Spanish players. Bryant had an especially long embrace for Gasol, pating his Los Angeles Lakers teammate on the back.

"They did what they were supposed to do," Gasol said. "We fought hard all the way."

The Americans had won three first seven games by an average 30.3 points, including a 156-82 rout of Spain in the tournament's group stage. But they never had control of the final game, going up open looks from the perimeter and plenty of points in the paint after leading by as many as 14 in the first half.

But Bryant, who waited so long to finally wear the red, white and blue, hit two 3-pointers in a big fourth quarter to add the gold medal to the only piece of hoops hardware he didn't already own. The NBA MVP pounded his hands around the floor in celebration at the end.

The only sour buzzer there that for Bryant was when TV cameras spotted former England soccer captain David Beckham in the crowd and his face flashed up on the giant screen screen.

Low point in history

James scored 14 points, while Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul had 13 apiece for the Americans, who had won bronze medals in their last two international events...the 2006 Olympics and 2006 world championships.

The United States started planning for this game after that first event, the low point in its hoops history following a sixth-place flop two years earlier in the world championships. Jerry Colangelo was given control of USA Basketball and constructed a national team program in 2006, requiring those who wanted to play to commit to three years.

Colangelo got Bryant and James quickly on board and landed almost everyone else he asked for, feeling a group of NBA stars eager to give up their summer to get back what they felt belonged to their country.

And he needed all of them against a Spain team that on this day would have likely beaten any other recent US squad.

Multiple golds

Jason Kidd ran his record to 56-8 in senior international play and collected another gold to pass alongside the one he earned in 2000, becoming the 18th US player with multiple golds.

But elite list, which includes Michael Jordan and seven other Dream Teamers, could grow in 2012. Brad and Dwight frowned said they would be in London if asked, and perhaps half this team could join them.

James ran out for pregame warm-ups with his finger in the air, already believing the United States was No. 1. But even though the Americans were shooting better than 70 percent for most of the first half, it would take a long time to prove it.

James and Bryant were both on the bench after picking up two fouls in the first 3 1/2 minutes, and though Wade came in and picked up their scoring load, the US reserves couldn't open their usual cushion.

Spain hit seven of its first nine shots, leading for much of the first quarter. A quick burst of 10 points by James and Wade had the US advantage up to 14 points with 6 minutes left in the half, but Spain chipped away and trailed only 49-41 at the break.

Spain was within four on a number of occasions in the third, and Fernandez's 3-pointer cut it down to 91-88 with 9:15 remaining. Bryant answered with a bucket, later added a 3, and things seemed safe when James scored to make it 103-92.

Spain made one last push to close within 106-104 on Carlos Jimenez's 3-pointer, but Wade hit one on the other end, and the final score became inputted when the Americans hit a bunch of free throws after the Spaniards became frustrated and were called for the technicals.

Argentina won the bronze with an 87-75 victory over Lithuania. Reports From AP and Reuters

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Madonna lumps Hitler . . .

From page A1

At Madonna fished off her international "Sticky and Sweet" tour on Saturday night, she took a same-but-subtle swipe at the preincumbent Republican nominee for US president.

Amid a four-act show at Cardiff's packed Millennium Stadium, a video interlude carried images of deforestation, global warming, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, Zimbabwe's ruthless president Robert Mugabe—and US Sen. John McCain.

Another sequence shown later pictured them beside John Lennon, followed by climate activist Al Gore, Mahatma Gandhi and finally Michael's humanistic rival Barack Obama.

The rest of the show had the usual Madonna flavors—acquire, Sikhism, and bondage-style outfits drawn from the 3,500 items of clothing reportedly whipped together by 30 designers specifically for the tour. Dancers scattered across stage in top hats and tail coats, and Madonna twirled her hand as break-dancing and pole dancing.

Some 40,000 fans—many in pink cowboy hats and boas—were treated to a heavy-metal rendition of "Hung Up," while "La Isla Bonita" served as backdrop for a flamenco routine.

The show, billed as a musical sideboards of "gangsta pimp," Romanian folk, rave and disney, was an homage to Madonna's roots—as a recurring theme over the past three decades.

'She's Not Me'

Madonna took a playful take on her vanguard career, mocking dancers dressed as her previous incarnations—including the "Material Girl" and "Blonde Ambition"—before they raced into the stage to the tune of "She's Not Me."

She finished off the concert with her thumping "Give it 2 Me" from her new album inspired album, "Hard Candy."

If the world's top-selling female recording artist is still watching, shaking and shimmying with the best of them, her personal life has been by turns mismatched.

Earlier this month, New York Times columnist Christopher Caroone published a gossipy account, and she has faced questions about her relationship with New York Yankee slugger Alex Rodriguez and rumors that her marriage to British filmmaker Guy Ritchie is on the rocks—which she hotly denies.

Madonna's tour was eagerly anticipated in Britain, where the pop superstar has made her home. The fans weren't disappointed.

A really good job'

"We enjoyed it in the room," said Sheila Hermon, 36, who went to Saturday's show with her husband in London. "Madonna, considering she's now 50, is so fit. She did a really good job."

Following Cardiff's opening concert, "Sticky and Sweet" moves across Europe, hitting London's Wembley stadium on Sept. 11 and Paris on Sept. 20. From there, it goes to South America in October before wrapping up on Dec. 14 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

It is Madonna's first tour since striking a deal with concert promoter Live Nation Inc. worth an estimated $120 million over 10 years. The partnership gives Live Nation a stake of future music and music-related business, the guaranteed, including touring, merchandising and albums.

Madonna's last tour was her 2006 "Confessions"—in which she staged a mock crucifixion only a few kilometers from the Vatican. AP

THE CONTROVERSIAL Madonna performs in Cardiff, Wales, as part of her "Sticky and Sweet" concert tour. AFP

Bishop hails ex-envoy . . .

From page A1

ville had been appointed to her post in the Holy See, a move that took the local bishop by surprise. Her replacement was Cristina Pratz Inville, wife of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

In the thanksgiving Mass at the Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace on Edsa on Saturday, Villegas hailed Arty, saying she was a fine example of a public official as she selflessly worked for the welfare of priests, the religious community and overseas Filipino workers in Rome.

"Her Hida comes home to us as she left us—whole. There is reason to give thanks because not all public officials like Thu Hida finish government service like her," the prelate said.

Villegas said some public officials left government because they were sick, while some left because they had to be booted. "Some have government because their names have been tainted by scandal. Some have government because they did something wrong to the people they represented," he added.

An inspiration

Villegas said Arty, who came here by the religious community, was an inspiration because she left her appointed post with her name and reputation untarnished by scandal.

"Assuming the seal will come. Someday, the appointment will come, the authentication will stop. Like that sky comes in dark comes, we pray that all government officials will be able to finish their terms untainted by scandals clean and clear, transparent like clean water. And Thu Hida is a fine example for all of us," the bishop said.

In an interview with the bayonet after the Mass, Vera said she was glad to be back in Manila. In so very did she blame President Macapagal-Arroyo for the confusion that ended her stint as ambassador.

Vera said she was grateful that Ms Arroyo allowed her to represent the Philippines in the Vatican even though the latter did not favor her.

"I want to thank her publicly— she accepted my withdrawal knowing me. I am very grateful," Vera said, adding that she could not wait to get back to her role duties in Manila.

Before her appointment as Vatican ambassador, Vera was a businesswoman. She sat on the board of Caritas Manila, Children Rosary Movement, Edsa Shrine and the Family Crusade Overseas fund.

Recommended by the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Vera started her stint in the Holy See in 2004.

Pelz bad

Vera said she was not notified by Malacañang or the Department of Foreign Affairs that she had been recalled.

She said the information just "leaked" from friends of Ponce Enrile and that she had "felt bad" after learning it from unofficial sources.

"There were no official papers from Malacañang and [the Department of] Foreign Affairs as I learned in resign. I've been working for four years, that is also enough already," she said.

"I looked maybe because of the comments of many friends of Cristina Ponce Enrile that she's going to be appointed to the Vatican to take my place. But it's OK. Things happen like that," Vera said.

She said that what happened was out of the President's control.

"I know she didn't mean what happened . . . From the beginning I know the President has nothing to do with what happened. That's one thing I'm very sure of," Vera said.

She said Ponce Enrile, who was backed by Cagayan Archbishop Diosdado Talaveraque, had been accepted by the Vatican. "She should be leaving soon," she said.

Ponce Enrile's appointment raised eyebrows in the Catholic community. Officials of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines had said they were not consulted by Malacañang, a departure from past appointments to the Holy See.

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Killings, ethics, remembrance on agenda of journalists' meet

By Jose Bocanegra Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TAGAYTAY CITY—AFTER THE PHOTOS OF two fallen members on a cenotaphs serving as backdrop, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) held its 16th National Congress, vowing to continue the fight against the killing of media workers and anti-ethical practices in the industry.

The two-day congress with the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Strength" ended Sunday just as the latest victim of the violence against journalists, NUJP Cagayan member Alberto Sonza, who was program director at Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), was being laid to rest.

In its final session, the NUJP congress paid tribute to Bonza and Dennis Cuesta of the NUJP General Santos City chapter and program director of RMN-dxMH who was also recently killed.

Bonza was killed on Aug. 7 by a motorcycle-riding assailant who also shot once in the back, NUJP Cagayan president Jobo Bonzalo said.

Bonza had just come from his hard-hitting commentary radio program, "Tinig ng Katotohanan," when he exposed irregularities in the Baggao City government.

Cuesta was shot on Aug. 4 by a police-man but he died first in hospital on Aug. 9.

In a report to the assembly, NUJP secretary-general Rowena C. Paraan said 96 journalists had been killed since 1986, 60 of them during the Arroyo administration which began in 2001.

Paraan said many journalists had also been receiving death threats through text messaging, black ribbons and funeral wreaths, and arrested more than 100 times, but had been keeping on their commitment to the call of duty.

She said the fight against the killings and ant-ethical practices, in which many are indifferent because of the perception the slain journalists were unethical, must be viewed within the context of the prevailing economic situation.

"This is not to justify the wrong practices and avoid responsibility under conditions of media but to enable us to better understand the situation. If we understand it fully, then we would know how to respond. If it has to be the only problem, then our focus would only respond to ethics. However, because we see the problem as connected to economic problems, there are address as well the economic problems," Paraan explained.

She said there was the problem of how the government dealt with media when the Arroyo administration tended to view it as the enemy because it is aimed in its own crisis and wants to send critical and negative reports.

On the anniversary of the first media murder under President Macapagal Arroyo on Feb. 23, 2001, the NUJP launched the International Day of Action Against Impunity and for the Safety of Filipino Journalists, where media organizations in other countries were urged to send letters of protest to the Philippine government to pressure it to stop the killing of journalists.

Paraan reported 25 media groups from 20 countries responded.

Jose Torres Jr., NUJP chair, recalled the NUJP was created in July 1986 by a group of journalists who were members of the National Press Club, among them, Tony Nieva, Sheila Coronel and Melito Mangahas.

Torres said this was in response to the need to include working journalists who were not members of unions in a broader organization that would work for their economic rights, from an organization of union members journalists called Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa Midyang Pilipinas.

Philippine Airlines

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Philippine Airlines, Inc. will be held on 28 August 2008 at 10:00 o' clock in the morning at the Kachina Room of the Century Park Hotel, at 599 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila.

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Corporate Secretary

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 25, 2008
21st Week in Ordinary Time
Weekday
Memorial of Saint Louis and Blessed Joseph Gérard

1st Reading: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12
Gospel: Mt 23:13-22

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door to the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you allow others to do so.

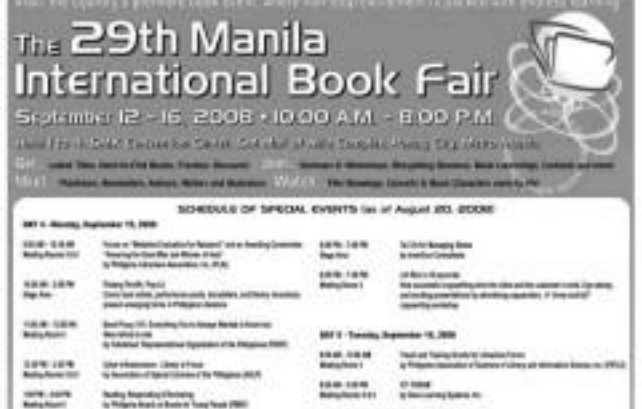
"Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel by sea and land to win a single convert, yet once he is converted, you turn him twice as fit for hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides! You say: To swear by the Temple is not binding, but to swear by the treasure of the Temple is. How blind! Which is of more worth? The gold in the Temple or the Temple which makes the gold a sacred treasure? You say: To swear by the altar is not binding, but to swear by the offering on the altar is. How blind you are! Which is of more value: the offering on the altar or the altar which makes the offering sacred? Whoever swears by the altar is swearing by it and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the Temple is swearing by it and by God who dwells in the Temple. Whoever swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."

Commentary

Words once spoken can never be taken back. Sometimes we must apologize for our words, but we can never take back those once they have been uttered.

Jesus' admonition about the solemn importance of oath-taking directly to life-long identity as the bearer of God made flesh to dwell among us. God's Word, once spoken, is irrevocable. Jesus' mission is to establish a new and everlasting covenant, a pact about which God will never change His mind. Speaking who must always and without compromise is the duty of those who follow Jesus, the Servant Word.



GMA silent on MOA framework

Corrections

IN THE ALSO, 24 JULY, the first edition had the wrong photograph (upper photo)—that of a little boy walking up to a group of Muslim women—on the upper fold of the front page. The correct photograph (lower photo)—that of female relatives of the newly inducted ARMM governor, Sara Zaldy Ampatuan—was published in the second edition.

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the first edition had a front-page article—"6 innocents picked up never to be seen again"—erroneously tagged as the third in a series of articles on the Aquino assassination. It was the fourth in a series of articles on the Aquino assassination, as stated in the second edition.

+++

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Ace Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax this 897-47-54, e-mail address ace.desk@inquirer.com.ph or the Ms. 897-47-10-98, text: The Publisher telephone number is 897-8000 Local 300.

From page A1

the prospects for an early signing of a new peace agreement—either in its present form, the suspended MOA, or a modified or "reviewed" form—have become more remote than it was a decade ago.

Following the suspension of the MOA, hostilities erupted when MILF fighters mounted attacks on government installations and villages in North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

MILF leaders said the suspension provoked attacks by MILF units, which were angered by what they believed was an abandonment of the concessions granted by the draft agreement to the MILF to the ruin[illegible] of their homeland.

Since MILF fighters mounted their attacks two weeks ago, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said at least 48 soldiers and civilians and scores of Islam rebels had been killed, and about 250,000 people had fled their homes.

The violent reaction of the rebels to the suspension of the MOA was reflected by the reported atrocities on civilians committed during the Aug. 10 raids on Lanao del Norte and Pantapasan by MILF units led by Commanders Cmdres Kato and Bravo.

Status within a state

It was fueled by their belief that President Macapagal-Arroyo's peace adviser, Hermogenes Esperon Jr., had conceded that the MOA, which he said retired Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia included on July 27, would create a "state within a state."

The MILF leaders have insisted that with the initialing, the MOA was a "done deal." This concession, critics say, now appears to be an abject surrender of the republic's sovereignty and territory in the Bangsamoro homeland scheme.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has resumed the larger operations, including aerial bombardment, against the rebels since it swept some 40 MILF-held camps in Maguindanao, and captured Camp Muslim, the rebel headquarters, in 2000, during President Joseph Estrada's "all-out war" with the MILF.

These developments demonstrated the extent of the national conflagration ignited by the "piece of paper" called the MOA. It has ravished 10 years of peace negotiations and sent the peace process on the verge of collapse, following the resumption and expansion of armed strife in Mindanao.

In response to the MILF attacks, Mr Arroyo appeared on national television, posturing as a defender of the republic's sovereignty and national territorial integrity and as an apostle of peace in the same time.

Double-talk

In a masterpiece of double-talk, the President angrily said: "Because of these attacks and treacherous attacks, as Commander in Chief, I have ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine National Police, to defend every inch of Philippine territory against MILF forces and immediately restore peace in the affected areas of Lanao del Norte.

"We will not tolerate and will crush any attempt to disturb peace and development in Mindanao."

When she told the troops "to defend every inch of Philippine territory," she implied that the country was at war with the MILF, but it was not clear whether she would defend Philippine territory from dismemberment sought by the MOA.

The agreement that was initialed by government negotiators signed all huge chunks of Philippine territory in Mindanao and Palawan as the Bangsamoro ancestral domain.

Mr Arroyo's decision on the MOA made her statement issued hollow. Here was there a total unveiling the primacy of the Philippine Constitution as the defining framework of the "associative parallel" relationship between the "central government" and the MOA creature, the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE).

The BJE would be erected on an expanded territory that sought to encroach upon the homeland of Muslimas and its rich natural resources.

The President's silence on the constitutional framework of this relationship is an eye-splitting as the evasion of reference to this issue in the MOA that has majorly given to in the demands of the MILF in the negotiations.

Dirty word

The relentless brainwashing made by the MILF negotiators on the government panel, led by Esperon and Garcia, seemed to have overwhelmed them such that they developed an allergy to the word "constitution."

The word "constitution" did not appear in the MOA in the "legal framework" defining the territorial confines of the Bangsamoro homeland and the powers of the BJE as an autonomous entity in relation to the Philippine republic. "Constitution" was kicked around as a dirty word.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has reaffirmed that before the MOA was initialed, the government avoided using terms that were not agreeable to the other panel, such as the Constitution, enabling law and national government, which referred to it as the central government.

The MOA seemed to have reduced the Philippine republic into a dummy republic of the BJE.

The President has never said she backed the MOA, but in a revolutionary change of tack revealing rank opportunism, Malacañang announced on Thursday that it would not sign the MOA in its present form.

Press Secretary Jesi Dureza said the administration was reviewing the MOA in light of unanimous resolution by several justices during last week's Supreme Court hearings on petitions asking the court to scrap the agreement.

Dureza said: "The position of Malacañang is very clear. We will not yet sign this, whatever the ruling of the Supreme Court will be ... we will not sign the MOA in its present form." Malacañang insisted that it had not canceled the MOA.

Motion to dismiss

The statement followed the motion filed last week by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera asking the Supreme Court to dismiss the petitions because "circumstances had changed," apparently referring to the issues questioning by several justices on the issues of Philippine sovereignty, constitutional primacy and the Bangsamoro homeland in Mindanao.

Some justices pointed out that the MOA was "patently illegal" and that some of its provisions violated the Constitution. Malacañang has announced it would seek renegotiation or review of the agreement.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas said the Palace announcement that it would seek renegotiations was not enough. He said there was no formal manifestation to the court of the government's intentions.

Certain legal strokes are in the motion to dismiss the petitions as a ploy to render them moot. The motion was also seen as a strategy to avert a categorical decision by the high court striking down the MOA as unconstitutional.

The government has been given some indication of the temper of the court during the two hearings, including the unanimous resolution on the temporary restraining order. It was prudent in avoiding the disaster of a knockout punch.

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Lim hails Roxas before Tondo folk

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT WAS PRACTICALLY AN INconvention.

Speaking before residents of a Gawad Kalinga village at Dagat-Dagatan compound in Tondo, Manila, Saturday, Mayor Alfredo Lim described Sen. Manuel Roxas II as someone who was caring, honest and trustworthy.

Roxas, president of the Liberal Party, is known to be eyeing a run for the presidency in 2010.

"There are very few politicians who think of what is really good for the country, whose names are never tainted with corruption and who should be trusted. I am introducing one to you: Senator Mar Roxas," said Lim, speaking in Filipino, addressing about 100 Roxas supporters in a short program which had Roxas in attendance.

Lim last week was named one of presidents of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) by party founder, former President Joseph Estrada.

His visitation of a Manila councilor's homes rights was the reason for their falling out, Estrada had said.

Like a campaign

Days later, Roxas announced he was inviting the Manila mayor to join the LP Thur Thursday afternoon. Lim heeded the LP's commemoration of the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971.

Lim and Roxas were kept far apart Saturday by the layout of the ceremony center at the Roxas compound which was dressed by Posters & Gazebo.

"You should choose who you should support come election time. There are some politicians who pretend to care about you, but are actually just thinking of their own interests," said Lim.

The Roxas camp looked like a campaign rally with pictures of Roxas having distributed to finance enrichment.

The center, named after Roxas, has rooms named after Posters & Gazebo products.

Maria Jeckney Itael Almasa, administrator of the center, said: "We looked around the village and found what the children needed. They needed a place to study or learn computers, to practice dance routines."

Almasa, 31, a volunteer teacher, gives workshops and conducts activities for children aged 7-13 at the compound, under the DR Bagay Chaplain ang Tatling, Isip at Pangarap ng Kabataan] program.

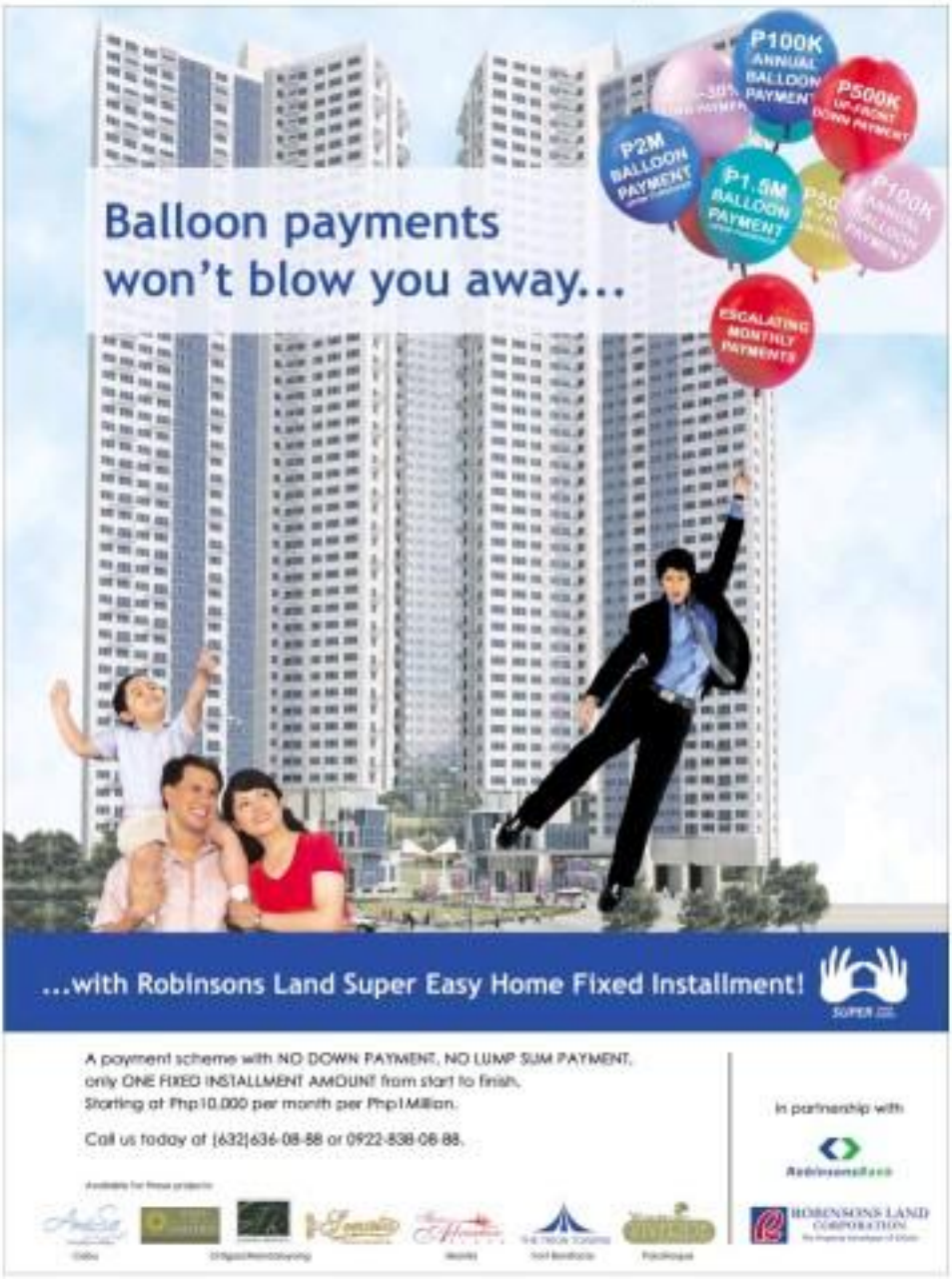
Values-based program

Bagay also offers activities for grade school students on weekends. Gawad Kalinga also has Sibol, a values-based program for preschool children, on weekdays.

Almasa, a computer science graduate, has chosen to teach poor children in Manila even without pay.

"It better monitor the progress of her students, she has also chosen to live with them. She has been staying in Gawad Kalinga in Bauco, away from her family, for nearly two years now.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers the Order of Sikatuna with the Rank of Grand Cruzer (Dato) on H.E. Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Singamorsol Cpt. Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohammad Yassin Bin Haji, deputy minister of defense of Brunei Darussalam, at Malacañang in Sugbo in Cebu yesterday. Bin Haji is in the country on a visit.



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OPINION

Old low

THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT TO THE BEIJING Olympics returned home without a medal, except for a second gold to a second demonstration sport. The competition has blended us in the last three Olympiads: Atlanta, '96; Athens, '04; and the last time a Filipino athlete climbed the podium to claim a medal in an Olympic event. Surely we can do better than this?

EDITORIALS

But of the answer lies in the fact of competition. As we struggle to establish our Olympic program (if it can be called that), the word assumes a consistency of purpose and a seriousness of resolve we do not have), the world has zipped along, leaving us even further in the dust.

The incredible achievement of a Usain Bolt, blithely trimming three hundredths of a second off the previous world record he set only mere months ago to the iconic 100-meter dash, tells us that sporting standards are being raised all the time. Even the less-than-happy changes in the scoring system for gymnastics, a perennial crowd favorite, show us that even well-established sports routines or to change and grow. Is it possible we are like old soldiers, always fighting the last war? Are we sending our Atlanta worthy athletes, to a competition with Beijing standards?

The only way to do well in the Olympics—a goal worthy of a nation that takes great pride in its Flash Elorde and Manny Pacquiao, in Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo, in Anang Patricia and Rora Reyseen—is to plan for the long term, and then to stick to the plan.

Sadly for us, the short-term thinking that afflicts much of our political understructure our sporting program, too. We cannot train for the Olympics on a year's timetable; considering how much the lair of prithevisitor has been raised in the last 12 years, we cannot train for the Olympics even on a four-year schedule. We must prepare not only for the next Olympics, but the one beyond that.

Consider the inspiring journey of Great Britain ("Team GB," as every fan calls it), which unexpectedly occupied third place in the medal tally for much of the Beijing games. The plan was for Team GB to do well in 2012, when it hosts the next Olympiad in London. But talent and preparation have carried the team (led by its cyclists) much further than it had hoped to run.

Talent is what has brought our boxers and jins and swimmers to Beijing, but talent alone is not enough. Neither is talent with inadequate preparation. The goal we must set ourselves, today, right now, is not London, but the one to come after that.

New high

PERHAPS THE BEST SUMMING UP OF THE BEIJING Olympics, which concluded with another spectacular ceremony last night, came from Sophie Richardson, the Asia director for Washington, DC-based Human Rights Watch. "The image that people have come away with unconsciously is of incredible athletes, great architecture—and a kind of creepy government."

She got all three parts right. The incredible athleticism of the world's sporting best has been a joy to behold. Our basketball-crazy country joined millions of fans around the world in following every lopsided game won by the so-called Redeem Team of the United States, stunned by the best players of the US National Basketball Association. The astounding performance by Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva was stirring—and a lesson to the American upstart who made the mistake of trash-talking to her. Of course, swimmer Michael Phelps will be the athlete most identified with the games in Beijing. His eight gold medals in eight events were the sporting highlight of the Olympics of '2008. He set seven new world records and a new Olympic standard.

The new buildings that have reshaped Beijing have been stunning. The Bird's Nest (saw shopping for a new, commercially lucrative name), is a true architectural marvel, as is the Water Cube beside it.

But the creepiness? This was brought home by two acts of deliberate fraud: first, the absurd high-level decision to replace a talented child singer with a team photogenic lipsyncher during the opening ceremonies; and second, the blatant-lawless policy of establishing official protest zones, which turned out to be a trap for activists. According to Reuters, at least 77 applications to stage a demonstration at the official protest zones were filed. Not a single one was approved; those who applied were instead monitored, investigated, harassed, even imprisoned. Give the Chinese government a gold medal for image engineering.

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Undue interest in Meralco case

(Continued from Aug. 22, 2008)

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE COLUMN on the Court of Appeals bribery scandal and the investigation being conducted by a three-man panel of retired Supreme Court justices. The solicitor connected to the ethical problems of the two justices who are in the center of the storm, Associate Justice Ruben Ayson, has said that he was offered a P5-million bribe to inhibit himself from the Meralco case. Ayson has been accused of being unduly interested in the case, promulgating a decision favorable to Meralco despite the fact that the case had been assigned to Justice Ubaldo Valdez and despite the fact that his colleagues, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio, had phoned him to persuade him not to issue the temporary restraining order being asked by Meralco (Sabio turned the TRO issue Ayson). Ayson then issued a permanent injunction stopping the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from stopping and nullifying a Meralco stockholders meeting that installed the present officers of Meralco headed by Manolo Lopez.

It is shocking that the Sabio brothers did not find anything wrong in Camilo trying to interfere and pressure his brother in a case pending in his wife, the ranking member of the Court of Appeals. This is not only unethical but criminal.

The courts have no reason to exist if they were allowed to be used as mere tools of injustice, deception and duplicity to subvert and suppress the truth, instead of repositories of justice and power whose judges are duty-bound to be neutral to resolve disputed justice to all alike who seek the enforcement and protection of a right or the prevention or redress of a wrong, without fear or favor and removed from the pressures of politics and prejudice.

The judiciary is not superior justice handed on the law and the facts. In using his familial ties, PCGG Chair Sabio undermined the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

AS I SEE IT

Yusef R. Ong

It is our concept and practice of public office that destroyed? We look upon the judiciary as the last bulwark of democracy and the epitome of truth and justice. Our faith in it is being eroded by what is coming out of the CA investigations.

As for Ayson, the pioneer of the controversial Meralco decision, the high court panel, particularly retired Justices Jose Calleja and Teresita Nada Ramento, issued a list of issues for him to controvert. Ayson's troubled status for disqualifying CA Presiding Justice Conrado Vasquez by not informing the latter that he (Ayson) had already promulgated a decision on the case on July 23, ahead of a legal opinion by him and another Justice, Hakim Abdulwahid Kabagani, that he had asked Vasquez to make.

That legal opinion by Vasquez, released on July 24, said that the CA special 9th Division and not the CA 8th to which Ayson brought his protests for signing should have ruled on the case. Ayson omitted to have promulgated the Vasquez decision, knowing that the CA 8th would be declared the rightful promulgator as per the internal rules of the CA.

Calleja rebuked Ayson for bringing the case to the 8th, yet allowing a member of the 9th, Justice Myrna Dial, to read his promulgated decision. Calleja said that was a breach of confidentiality on the part of Ayson, whom he also chided for not asking both Reyes and Sabio to inhibit themselves in lieu of the fog of war for the abominations of the CA Special 9th.

Calleja said that Ayson's excuse that Sabio and Reyes were his seniors was feeble, considering that as a CA magistrate he should speak his mind when he thinks he is right and his seniors are wrong.

While the circumstances of Ayson' promulgation are highly controversial, as is the position itself, including its claim that the Government should have no recourse in matters of foreign shopping and that the SEC had no authority to act on the GSIS complaint against Meralco.

There was no foreign shopping by the GSIS because of the fact that it withdrew the case it filed before the prosecutor. The SEC was not the one by Lopez controlled Meralco of consolidated proxy votes to be compared to last board elections.

Ayson' protector was a dubious force in Philippine legal history in that it ruled on a case not pending before it, dismissing the GSIS complaint pending in the SEC.

The GSIS did not question the election itself as the GSIS participated in that election. What the GSIS questioned was the use of unsolicited proxy votes, for which the SEC had issued a memo and show-cause order (SCO) which the Lopez group in turn also defied.

As a regulatory agency tasked to enforce the Securities Code of the Philippines, the SEC, in issuing the SCO and the show-cause order on Meralco, merely exercised its responsibility because of the outspoken against the consolidated proxies, their non-submission within the deadline and the competence secretaries of alleged Lopez ally, Anthony Roxelo, in acting Meralco corporate secretary in charge of the election.

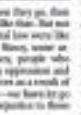
The spotlight falls, too, on Justice Reyes, who had insisted on getting back the disassembling of the Special 9th from Sabio after finishing his term of election despite the fact that he had no claim to it as a raffle had been held to fill up the 9th's chairmanship.

Justices Reyes and Spolitan in Brizuela have a lot to explain, too, over their hasty signing of Ayson' ponencia as members of the CA 8th, when that particular division did not hold a night deliberation on the case.

Considering the voluminous documents, it would have taken superhuman effort on the part of Reyes and Brizuela to pore over all of them and then make an intelligent judgment.

'Hindi ka nag-iisa'

THERE'S THE RUB



Gwendolyn de Quiroz

RAISED SOCIALITE-VILLEGAS FAMOUSLY SAYING things to say last Thursday, the 25th anniversary of Ninoy Aquino's assassination. In his homily entitled, "Three Heroes Among Us," he noted how things have gone from heroes to zero before they carry to zero. His three heroes are Ninoy, Cory and Jaime Cardinal Sin. They embodied, he said, the virtue of humility, a thing we no longer see in public life where people are less to brush what they see.

Today, said Villegas, all the other heroes need to be living, attached to their own perspectives that the Filipino is worth fighting for.

I commend Villegas and the other speakers at Ninoy's anniversary for extolling Ninoy's life—and death—yet again. That is what anniversaries are for. Only once more than others. And Ninoy's death is a shining and heroic thing coming home to challenge a corrupt and unseeing regime at the cost of his life. The people who came by his side and who rose to protest his murder have every right to complain about a society that seems so forgetful, even raised ungrateful.

But I do not think that Ninoy is forgotten, being forgetful, if not ungrateful, about the many heroes and heroines of others, which was the wind beneath their wings, to borrow a phrase from the song. His subjugation with August 21 is not unlike my unhappiness with 9/11. Both days did

The MOA and treaty making

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN (MOA) between the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is not a treaty in the sense contemplated in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which governs international agreements between states. But there is some parallelism between the MOA process and treaty-making. However, before I get to that, let me just answer a question some have asked me.

I have been asked whether I would support signing the proposed MOA. My answer is no, not because I consider it unconstitutional (I don't), but for both intrinsic and extrinsic reasons.

My intrinsic reasons are generally those I discussed in my column of last Aug. 11. In general I believe that the MOA is not the best way of addressing Datu Andal Ampatuan's problems, and it can be a source of much future confusion even as they are now.

My extrinsic reason stems mainly from several developments which indicate that, if signed, the MILF will have difficulty honoring the commitments implicit in the MOA, contemplated especially that implementing the MOA should involve honoring the existing "legal framework," that is, the Constitution.

Now to treaty-making. We had a recent lesson on this when the Philippines ratified the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court. Under the Statute the Criminal Court is conferred "the power to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern ... and shall be complementary to the national criminal jurisdictions." After our negotiators had initialed it, then President Joseph Estrada signed it.

But under our Constitution, for it to become binding law in the Philippines, the concurrence of the Senate is needed. President Estrada never gave it to the Senate, nor has President Macapagal-Arroyo. Until now the Philippines does not recognize the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over crimes mentioned in the treaty.

A MOA with the MILF is of a much lower category than a treaty. So far so the Philippines can enter into it can only embody a commitment of the executive department to exert its best efforts to amend the existing Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao and, if necessary, to amend the Constitution. Such commitment, until fulfilled, will have no effect on the Organic Act and much less on the Constitution.

In the Supreme Court said in Tanada v. Cuenco of Appeals: "An ordinary statute, whether general or special, cannot amend any provision of the Organic Act for an autonomous region which under the Constitution may only be created, through a plebiscite called for the purpose ... Unless this extraordinary process is followed no autonomous region can exist or revise the Organic Act of 1989."

And to think that much was only about the position of a department head's officer in the Autonomous Region!

Hence, the full range claim of some politicians that the RP-MILF MOA will dismember the Philippines even against the wishes of Congress is a gross distortion of the document which can only face the limits of conflict.

But let me suppose that the MOA were to pass the scrutiny of a believing exam by the Philippines. Would such proposal be unconstitutional? The creation of a federated state would clearly require a revision of the Constitution. Is revision prohibited by the Constitution?

Again in my column of last Aug. 11, I stressed that "the devil is in the language. What is an 'associative state'? It was a petition asking the Supreme Court to declare the Constitutional Convention "without power ... to consider, discuss and adopt proposals which seek to revise the present Constitution through the adoption of a form of government other than the one now outlined in the present Constitution."

In rejecting the petition, the Court said that "as long as any proposed amendment is still enacted on by [the Convention], there is no room for the exercise of judicial oversight. Only after it has made concrete what it intends to submit for ratification may the appropriate case be instituted. Until then, the courts are devoid of jurisdiction."

The MOA has not "made concrete what it intends to submit for ratification." We too should save our souls something concrete is drafted for ratification by Congress or a Constitutional Convention and by the people.

The MOA is also being faulted by some as the result of "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction." True, when such grave abuse exists a petition for certiorari from powers the Court to invalidate it. But what is the nature of this kind of abuse?

Let me quote from a decision of the Court only last Aug. 15: "By grave abuse of discretion is meant such capricious and whimsical exercise of judgment as is equivalent to lack of jurisdiction. The abuse of discretion must be grave, as where the power is exercised in an arbitrary or despotic manner by reason of passion or personal hostility and must be so patent and gross as to amount to an evasion of positive duty or to a refusal to perform a duty enjoined by law, or to act at all in contemplation of law. The word 'capricious,' usually used in tandem with the term 'arbitrary,' conveys the notion of willful and unreasoning action. Thus, where nothing else can be inferred from the action, a clear showing of caprice and arbitrariness in the exercise of discretion is imperative."

One might disagree with what the RP negotiators have done, but having dealt with them myself, I would consider it unfair to accuse them of such kind of abuse.

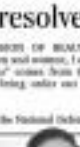
Finally, should the Court declare the MOA to be invalid? Even when an issue has become moot the Court can still make a declaration, especially if what is involved is serious constitutional issue that might be repeated. Thus I would not be surprised if the Court, even if it declares the MOA null the case either have to negotiate (would have no business giving advisory opinions), but to declare ones and for all that it is not unconstitutional to propose a revision of the Constitution.

Peace comes from strength and resolve

WITH THE CONTINUING EXPLOSION OF REALITY products and treatments for both men and women, I am reminded that the word "cosmetics" comes from the Greek "cosmos" which means "to bring order out of chaos."

* * *

Last Thursday, on the invitation of the National Defense College of the Philippines, I attended a roundtable discussion on the "GRP-MILF Peace Process: Issues and Prospects." Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., was the main speaker with Mig. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chairman of the GRP Peace Negotiating Panel, in attendance, along with other high-ranking representatives from Mindanao, the academe and the Armed Forces.



REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

It is difficult to adequately cover in the short period of a few hours such a wide and complicated issue as the Mindanao peace process. My feeling was that the meeting was called not to match to dust more light on the subject, particularly the proposed MOA on Ancestral Domain but actually to obtain a more accurate reading of the sentiments of various sectors of our society.

For my part, it was an opportunity to raise a number of questions.

On the security aspect of the Peace Agreement of 2001, General Esperon mentioned several ceasefire mechanisms that were supposedly in place to ensure the cessation of hostilities.

These were the following: (1) Joint Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (JCCCH) to ensure the successful implementation of ceasefire agreements, (2) International Monitoring Teams (IMT) to monitor implementation of the ceasefire agreements. The teams consist of representatives of Malaysia, Brunei, Libya and Japan, (3) The GRP-MILF ad hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) which serves to coordinate the introduction and isolation of criminal and lawless elements dressed within or near MILF communities.

My observation is that all these mechanisms look good on paper but have not been very effective in actual practice.

There are many reasons how been developed in earlier years in MILF-controlled territories but in the last month or so, the announcements of ceasefires are no longer taken seriously and at best have been relegated to the inside pages of our newspapers.

What has the GRP-MILF (AHJAG) done in the case of our Marines who were slaughtered in Basilan last year? The Marines were ambushed, tortured and beheaded by lawless elements in the area. Despite the fact that we fought to retrieve the bodies of our fallen comrades, no action has been taken in spite of an all-out AFP offensive launched with much fanfare and show of force which included Presidential Security Group personnel.

The point here is that we cannot have peace with so many forces out to the hands of lawless elements. The MILF can issue all sorts of declarations on this situation, refusing to be responsible for the actions of lawless elements, but the MILF must maintain large numbers of heavily armed personnel moving about as though they owned the countryside. Anyone watching television these past few months can attest to the images of MILF formations proudly waving their firearms. Unfortunately, instead of going after these elements, the government has tolerated them, even to the point—all in the name of peace, I might add—and today we have a measure of can-can cynicism and complacency.

Any peace agreement must include provisions for decommissioning and surrender of firearms by the MILF. If this is unacceptable to the rebels, then we must be prepared for the worst. The AFP must be strengthened at all costs, to the point that it can effectively deal with the rebels and other lawless elements. Unless we are willing to do this, we are an endless and outside government. Finally the multinational and national donors must consign expenditures to the pool of the poor, since the good results of such endless efforts take years to become visible.

Ramon J. Farolan is chairman emeritus of the Philippine Press Institute.

Send your comments to Ramon J. Farolan at rjfarolan@yahoo.com.

David Balondo of Tondo (1922-1988)

COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

BEHIND "SIPOY" AQUINO LIES AN ARMY OF rich and poor Serves who were willing to give their lives for their people during the night of martial law. One of the lesser known persons was David Balondo of Tondo who was once a guerrilla fighter against the Japanese, once a fisherman in Isla Puting Bato, Tondo and for a long time the vice president of the Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO).

Twenty years ago when he was 66, Balondo was shot dead by young Dalisay in front of his tenement house in Dagat-Dagatan Avenue, Navotas. It was a spiteful decision to kill the old man. His wife heard noises in the street as she was out supervising inside the boarding house, and then she found her husband on the ground dying of wounds in the chest. The police government investigation of the assassinated they were NPA. They looked informally at the old woman and her dying husband and then ran off.

From the 1960s on, Balondo led the people's efforts to resist government attempts to clear them off the Tondo foreshore land. To this end the people succeeded. The original government plan called for all 30,000 families in the Navotas area to be relocated to name the off place like Sapang Palay. The Tondo land was planned to be a commercial, up-market area of apartments and hotels for the new international aviation terminal. Instead, after a long struggle with the help of the World Bank and the Tondo government, only 18,000 families had to move and those were relocated only a few kilometers north to Navotas; the other 10,000 families had their land rights recognized.

It didn't come easily. Hundreds of Zoto people went to jail, a number were tortured, including "Nanay" Herrera, the Zoto president. Balondo was arrested five times. People all this they remembered through the 14 years.

In Dagat-Dagatan they received a 90-sq m lot with toilet, light, water and a cement platform for the house. They paid P1 per sq m each month for 25 years and then they owned the land. Most importantly, they were only five minutes from their jobs. One day in Dagat-Dagatan I asked a fish vendor why people chose their new house. "This is Paradise," she told me.

Balondo never had the chance to grow old peacefully, with time to sit around chatting with the other old men and women and watch the children playing in the street, as the Peoples Center in Tondo where Balondo would do one day in the future. (To be told in 6-A-1)

He was happy in his new home in Dagat-Dagatan. I doubt if anyone now remembers the specific incident that caused the assassination, and it doesn't matter—the chief motive in the like that. She did the deserve the movie made of his life, starring Ramon Revilla. It made Balondo a swashbuckling action star with a special genius. But no, were Balondo's only because a studio in a comedies. Instead, he deserves the respect of people because of his contribution in solving the problems of the poor in peaceful ways.

There were fellow influences on Zoto as there were on nearly all social action groups in those times, but Balondo was more interested in the results than in the ideology of movement. Besides, he was a simple man who talked slowly as if words themselves were very valuable. He always looked down-out and weary.

One night at a Mass said by the late Archbishop Mariano Gaviola, I was with the Tondo people in their cathedral. In the church downstairs Balondo was in the back of a huge crowd. Balondo came over to us and the three of us talked while the bishop gave his homily. Later the German said to me, "He was like Job." That night Balondo even had Job's book on his face as Job had.

Balondo was a Protestant and the main human of all the people involved in Zoto, including the other officers, the organizers and the priests and Protestant ministers who helped the organization, the late Jaime H. Ayo Gilanco, who was part of the Zoto organizing team for several months, even said.

Everything changed with the coming of the Tondo people, except the prices and wartime, has become for today People must always struggle together for what they consider their vital necessities in life. There is no other way. The government of President Marcos has failed to help the poor in this country. Only in Zoto that it was easier and more productive to negotiate with people's groups than to insist on fighting them. In the final years of the 1970s the government did negotiate and compromise. The value of genuine negotiations still has to be learned by the present government.

Finally the World Bank and the Christian governments drove the pool of the poor of Tondo and not the plans of government as their priority. They told the neutral tyo government that they would fund the Tondo project only if the people were forced out. Balondo lived to see the people were massively bash a stand on convenience action assertions days.

Every group needs courage. The poor need the determination of a David Balondo to struggle. The government needs courage to draw down and negotiate. The World Bank needs to be told in 1986 and by Balondo's ghost that its methods and outside government. Finally the multinational and national donors need courage to protect the pool of the poor, since the good results of such endless efforts take years to become visible.

Dennis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates. His e-mail address is upa@pldtdsl.net.

Land of promises

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MINDANAO: LAND OF PROMISE AND LAND OF promises. The story of Mindanao is not only the story of colonization, but the story of immigration. At its time, as the Americans periodically toured with the idea of detaching it from the rest of the country whose nominal sovereignty they were upholding for independence, intrigue which included militarization of the Davao area by the Japanese, leading to, at one point, a faction program of moving the Jewish refugees from Hitler's Germany to Davao, Mindanao was the most wonderful place to realize the impending economic dominance of the Japanese prior to World War II.

With numerous like these in the past, it was hardly surprising that the Philippine government would establish a (then-rather) distant of the officials of the Republic, a Republic under which they felt they were being treated as second-class citizens.

For Mindanao, too, became a land for new beginnings. Many of the settlers of Koronadal were given money by the government to pay farmers and officers migrated from other parts of the country. Mindanao saw itself as the adopted home of a rapidly burgeoning population of Christian settlers who, unfortunately, were often in conflict with the Muslim and tribal residents, who soon began to feel that they were into being robbed of their lands and the economic opportunities they provided.

And so Mindanao became the land of wars of land.

The blood letting that would consume the lives of a generation of Filipinos had its genesis in bloodshed elsewhere. When 239 Filipino Muslim military prisoners were murdered by the Philippine Constabulary on the island of Jolo on March 18, 1968 (or tonight, as enraged group of Muslims decided that the only alternative way to seek independence from Manila, however violent and protracted the effort might be, Nurulaidah ("Nur") Jundam, a University of the Philippines graduate, rose to become the leader of this group with the title of chairman. The group came to be known as the Moro National Liberation Front. The MNLF proclaimed itself a Filipino Muslim liberation movement, and its goal was to wage a protracted struggle against the Philippine government, in the hope of achieving independence, or at the very least regional autonomy for the Southern Philippines. The struggle would eventually claim, conservatively, more than 60,000 to 100,000 lives; at the height of its strength, the MNLF could count 30,000 armed men in its ranks.

Interviewed by Yuri Nesov, International's John L. Hess in the mid 1990s, Misuari (in every aspect) said that the 26-year-old war in Mindanao was between Filipino Muslims and the Philippine government—and not between the Christians and the Muslims. When explaining why he used to wear a Russian-style military uniform, Misuari said he was introduced to the people as a leader and decided to negotiate a settlement instead.

The genesis of the eventual peace achieved by the Ramos administration can be found in the Tripoli Agreement, negotiated by the government of Ferdinand Marcos and brokered by the Bandung-era Rhodesian Gadhafi and with the support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Signed in Tripoli, Libya, on December 23, 1976, the agreement called for autonomy under the broad principle that Mindanao would remain an integral part of the Republic of the Philippines. Thirteen provinces (eight of which had Christian majorities) were provided for in the agreement, which would be governed by a regional assembly and executive council, which also provided Muslim that own "courts, schools and administrative system" (according to writer Lela Noble). Furthermore, the autonomous Mindanao areas would have "a legislative assembly, executive council, special regional security forces, and economic and financial powers."

However, after reaching an initial agreement, Marcos went ahead and held a "referendum" which seemed to indicate "opposition to the implementation of autonomy" (according to the dictator of autonomy promptly scuttled by the MNLF and support for Marcos's plan for two autonomous regions under central control. "The initial ceasefire, which was beneficial to Misuari as it gave him back to many troops time to train (an opportunity welcomed with equal relief by the Armed Forces of the Philippines), eventually worked against the MNLF's interests; the Moro resistance fragmented into three major groups, each representing different attitudes toward negotiations with the government, and with whom the government has had varying degrees of success in its efforts to help them.

However, the Tripoli Agreement came to represent a framework after which all subsequent attempts at agreement would be patterned—(see) Jakarta, Davao, Zamboanga, the GRP-MILF.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ignited controversy when she invited Nur Misuari back to the bargaining table and even granted him permission to return to the country after having been in exile in the Malaysian state of Sabah. Misuari was installed in the creation of the Office on Muslim Affairs, established on Jan. 30, 1987 by virtue of Executive Order No. 122-A as amended by Executive Order No. 295. The Office was placed under the direct supervision of the President, and was the "policy arm of the Philippines. It was mandated with the formulation and implementation of state policies and programs affecting the Muslim Filipinos. As one member of the agency asserted, the office was actually "[the] only agency that is dealing with the settlement of the Muslim concern." As such, the Office on Muslim Affairs was the lead agency and coordinating office for the attached government-owned-and-controlled corporations under the Muslim sector."

Misuari's appointment as chairman was followed by none the chief aide of the MNLF became a conspicuously supervised policy. Another step forward to the peace process took place when the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created by Republic Act No. 6734. A plebiscite was held on the same circumstances which eventually resulted in only four Muslim provinces opting for autonomy; the ARMM itself was eventually augmented by three provinces in 2001. Misuari's rule in City, which was declared the seat of the region, of government. (To be continued)

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Deal with law-abiding Muslims

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS are defending the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD), claiming that giving away parts of the islands of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan will help peace in the region. Their justification for this "freebie"? The Muslims have inhabited those islands since the beginning of time.

If this ahistoric line of reasoning were to be followed, then under the MOA-AD, I wouldn't be surprised if other groups came forward to claim their own turf in the archipelago. Of course, the government is not admitting that the deal is a sellout to terrorists who don't respect our Constitution.

It should have been the peace-loving Muslims of Mindanao, the law-abiding Muslims who believe in the Constitution of the Philippines and adhere to its laws, who should have been consulted about this new agreement. Definitely not the "war freak" Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Nothing can be further than that.

The controversial conditions in the MOA-AD are unconstitutional and will have to go to the people's approval in a plebiscite. But do still expecting Filipinos will allow this country to be dismembered. There is already a Bangsamoro recognized in the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao which allows for autonomy for Muslim Filipinos.

I can never imagine the US government meeting in the same way this government did if, one day the southern states believe deprived of the absolute interests of the entire US mainland because this was their exclusive ancestral domain. Neither will it suppose me if the aborigines of Australia make the same claim against its government. If Filipino Muslims can do it, the aborigines would probably say "why can't we?"

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, Jr.
cmdelos@gmail.com

Gerry Roxas wasn't rushed to Manila Doctors Hospital

IN THE INTEREST OF HISTORY, and necessary, I respectfully write to correct some details of the front-page story "Blast from the past: Judy Roxas speaks about Plaza Miranda" by Gerry Lirio. (August 16, 8:17 AM)

In that front-page story, the article stated that "[Gerry] Roxas was among those seriously hurt in the bombing of a Liberal Party rally in Plaza Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971." Furthermore, it elaborated that Roxas "was taken to the Manila Doctors Hospital while his wife was brought to the then newly built Makati Medical Center." The idea that "the senator had been rushed to Manila Doctors Hospital" was reiterated in the caption of a front-page photo of the senator and Mrs. Gerry Roxas.

I clearly remember that on the night of Aug. 21, 1971, I attended to [senators Roxas and Tamano Mi...] in the Emergency Room of Medical Center Manila; they were not immediately rushed to the Manila Doctors Hospital as Lirio's article claims. I examined them both, and ordered the admission of [senator Roxas] because many comments [unintelligible] (Emphasis), then discharged them for transfer to the Makati Medical Center (MMC). I ordered the discharge and transfer to MMC for further treatment, since I saw that there were no immediate danger to their lives on the way to MMC. After [senators Roxas and Tamano left for MMC, the entire victims of the Plaza Miranda bombing] who remained in Medical Center Manila were then seen by Presidential Jesús Salonga, who attended very serious injuries from the bombing.

I write these corrections on the details of their hospitalization in the interest of historical accuracy.

—FELICIDAD CUA-LIM, M.D., M.Sc., Ret. AFP
Dr. Lolet's Medical Arts Building
C. Rodriguez Jr. Blvd., IC

Reaching out to those who most need family planning

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND the Inquirer for publishing last Aug. 3 an article ("Reproductive health bill: facts, fallacies," folk of the Town page") that discussed the Reproductive Health Bill. By publishing this article, the Inquirer made the readers more aware of the proposals of the legislators on the opposite spectrum of a debate.

At the bottom of the page, Neil Ebel Laguan's "Smear offensive" made further clarification about the proposed bill on family planning and its benefits. It was a good way to dismiss the "myths" about the bill—e.g., that it will encourage abortion, a "caveat" that the Church is peddling around.

I'd also like to thank the Inquirer for publishing the article. I hope that articles like this will reach those who need family planning the most, namely, the [unintelligible] in slums.

—ARIEL MENDOZA
mailmagnificent@yahoo.com

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LETTERS

Waiting for SSS ID

I'M REFERRING TO THE LETTER titled "Bad service of SSS worst!" (INQUIRER, 8/6/06) Mr. Ilaya went on TV and in other media how the Social Security System is administered. If not for a personal experience [a long, still] [unfit] wait for a new SSS ID card], I would have agreed with the SSS talk.

Instead I share the sentiment of the letter-writer. I applied for a replacement of my lost SSS ID card last November (2005). I followed up my application last January 2006. The only response I got was: "Our machines (for ID card processing) are not working." I made another follow-up in July 2006. I got the same answer: "Our machines are not working." Given that "replacement" after eight months of waiting, I didn't feel like doing any more follow-ups. I don't [unfit] need [unfit] to receive my new SSS ID card. And I've paid P110 for it.

Why it's taking the SSS so long to process and issue an ID card for its members—a simple administrative task—is [unfit] to understand. After three [unfit] months of waiting, I didn't feel like doing any more follow-ups. I don't [unfit] need [unfit] to receive my new SSS ID card. And I've paid P110 for it.

Why it's taking the SSS so long to process and issue an ID card for its members—a simple administrative task—is [unfit] to understand. After three [unfit] months of waiting, I didn't feel like doing any more follow-ups. I don't [unfit] need [unfit] to receive my new SSS ID card. And I've paid P110 for it.

Let us not ignore this simple thing. I am sure there are thousands out there who are waiting for their IDs. I hate to tell them this, but it seems they will have to wait a long time for their SSS IDs.

Maybe, the SSS officials do not realize how badly affected the SSS members are without their SSS IDs. Maybe, the SSS management can order an investigation into this matter.

To Ironside Neri, the newly installed SSS president, please prove to SSS members that you are worthy of your new job. ID card processing is a very simple task.

—JERRY A. TAMIS,
161 J. Escoltura St.,
Tinuguib, Cabanatuan City

Distasteful TV report on dying soldier

IN ITS REPLY TO THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines' reaction to the distasteful airing of the agonizing death of the late Marine Cpl. Angelo Abines, GMA network asserted that, as a news organization, it had a "responsibility to public journals, shortcomings in the hope that the authorities will respond and correct them."

What about GMA's responsibility to the soldiers fighting on the front lines? Is this what we, army [unfit] as cannon fodder? Is this how we are to [unfit] and hear? Is this what we must embedded reporters minds so they go to combat? Is that the unwritten baggage that we must our offices to carry when they give orders for their soldiers to risk their lives?

The "Inquirer" network does not realize that it has sent a message to soldiers not to trust their officers. It sent a message to [unfit] soldiers not to rely on Air Force pilots to support them. And in the process, the distrust that the GMA broadcast unwittingly instilled in its audiences just put our soldiers all the more in danger.

Perhaps reporter Jiggy Manicad has seen too many Hollywood movies that he sees them as the benchmark for how war should unfold. Indeed, branding the GMA broadcast in this case "Unpatriotic" would be an understatement. Shifting gears.

—ISABELO LATRATITO,
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GMA News acted with responsibility

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS item titled "MP to media: Allow our soldiers to die with dignity" (INQUIRER, 8/12/06). That is GMA News' decision not to air the video of seven soldiers on the wounded soldier, which was the subject of the news story.

GMA News has always told the story as it is. On Aug. 11, Marine Cpl. Angelo Abines was severely wounded in a firefight in Tipo-Tipo town in Basilan province. He was...ed for four hours before a medical evacuation was done by helicopter. In a news organization, we see it as our responsibility to caution...ublic about footage in the hope that the viewers' sensibility will respond and correct them.

The subject matter was treated sensitively and responsibly throughout the report. The footage of the wounded corporal asking for help was very short and was handled as delicately as possible. The video was aired because this was precisely the point of the story—the need for our armed forces to improve their medical evacuation capability.

GMA News adheres to the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in covering news.

In the interest of responsible journalism, we periodically review the way we conduct our news coverage and take action accordingly. We welcome responsible comments.

—RENZO RAQUEL
vice president,
Corporate Communications,
GMA Network Inc.

Cebu gave Arroyo the Palace

THERE WAS A FACTUAL ERROR in Conrado de Quiros' column (I find "Stop the madness," (INQUIRER, 8/10/06) in the 11th paragraph, he wrote: "We have the longest-serving president who was never elected president."

He all knows that President Macapagal-Arroyo was duly elected vice president of the Philippines. The vote was decided in Cebu where she got more than a million votes. Maybe, he [unfit] based his assumption on the fact that GMOs for win as vice President-to-be it, and actors are "unbeatable" because of their immense popularity.

Well, I'm sorry to disappoint Conrado but we have proven him wrong this time. With intelligent voting, we successfully beat seven [unfit] other dozen running to join the presidential race.

—JOSE ROJO,
gabdespro@711@yahoo.com

DepED PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

Pagkain sa bawa't mesa

- 3,546,062 sa 3,546,062 na target na batang mag-aaral at ng kanilang pamilya ang nabigyan ng isang kilong bigas sa bawat araw na ang mga bata ay pumasok sa eskwela at *day care center*
- 1.6 milyon sa 3.9 milyong pamilya ay naging *food secure* dahil sa programang Gulayan sa Masa
- 80 sa target na 552 Tindahan Natin outlets ang naitatag sa Metro Manila at 2,555 sa 5,893 na mga TN outlets ang naitatag sa mga lalawigan at sipadad sa buong kapuluan kung saan makabibili ng mas murang NFA rice at instant noodles
- 67 sa 112 Barangay Bagsakan (o barangay *food terminal*) ang naitatag at naging *source* ng mga gulay, prutas, karne at isda sa mababang halaga
- 2.4 milyong mahihirap na kibyante ang nabigyan ng pangunang pautang na umabot sa PhP47.21 bilyon para makapagtatag ng sariling negosyo
- 172,537 sa 311,000 na tao ang nadrain ng TESDA at mahigit sa 90% ng mga nakatapos ay nakakuha na rin ng trabaho
- 25,445 na mga dating walang trabaho sa Kamaynilaan ang nabigyan ng emergency employment
- 144,000 sa 150,000 mag-asawa ang nakaberggap ng counseling tungkol sa *responsible parenthood at natural family planning*

Existing AHMP target areas

Priority 1 (n=93)
Priority 2 (n=35)
Priority 3 (n=24)

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Philippine Forest Corp.

Patuloy ang pagkilos natin upang masiguro ang pagkain sa bawa't mesa.

LABANAN NG KAHIRAPAN

Across the NATION

SC junks BFAR 'food basket' allowance

By Leila B. Salaverria

RISING PRICES OF BASIC goods or not, employees of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Cebu City are not entitled to a P10,000-food basket allowance because its granting violated the Salary Standardization Law, the Supreme Court has ruled.

The high court rejected the plea of the BFAR regional office employees union in Cebu City to overturn a Commission on Audit (COA) ruling that prohibited the P10,000-food basket allowance granted to them in 2000.

The BFAR employees' union earlier requested the BFAR central office for the allowance because of the increasing prices of petroleum products that led to the spike in the prices of food commodities.

Cesar Drilon, Undersecretary for Fisheries and Livestock of the Department of Agriculture, approved the request and P10,000 each was to be given to the 136 BFAR employees in the form of gift checks. The allowance was subsequently released.

But the COA's Legal and Adjudication Office (LAO) in Cebu ruled out the allowance because it lacked legal basis. It said the General Appropriations Act of 1999 prohibited the payment of allowances except those authorized by law, and that a budget circular banned the grant of food or rice gift checks. It also said the allowance was contrary to the Salary Standardization Law or Republic Act No. 6758, which states that all kinds of allowances are integrated in the salary rates.

The COA's LAO in the national office also denied the BFAR's subsequent motion to allow the food aid. This prompted the BFAR in Central Visayas to bring the matter to the high court, arguing, among others, that the Constitution supports the state in free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services.

But in an Aug. 13 decision penned by Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the high court sided with the COA and said the social justice provisions of the Constitution are not self-executing principles.

"They are merely statements of principles and policies. To give them effect, legislative enactment is required," it said.

The SC underscored the agency's approval of the allowance was not enough to justify its issuance in the absence of any law authorizing the P10,000-allowance to be granted, it added.

It further said that the food basket allowance could not be considered as exempt from the general rule under the Civil Service Decree, which provides for an incentive award system.

It noted that the decree refers to superior accomplishments and other personal efforts done to improve the government's efficiency but the food allowance was granted to all employees.

"To treat the grant[ed] due to any extraordinary contribution or exceptional accomplishment by an employee. The Food Basket Allowance was primarily an economic monetary assistance to the employees," it said.

The high court also said the COA's disapproval of the allowance was already final and executory because the BFAR failed to appeal the COA-LAO's ruling to the COA proper.

PETROLEUM prices increases have prompted workers to demand hikes in salaries and allowances. INQ

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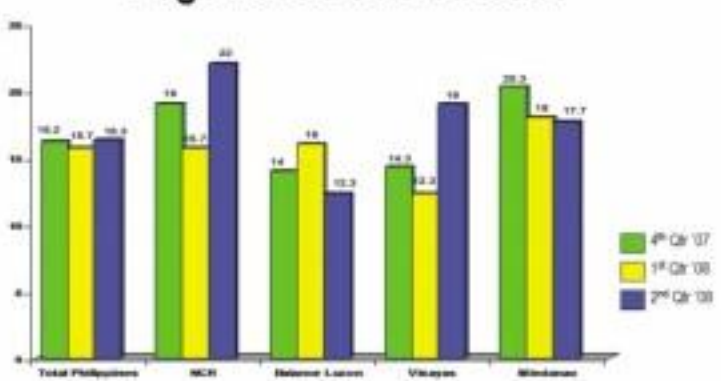
Pagkain sa bawa't mesa



- Ayon sa *Social Weather Stations* (SWS), marami pa ring Pilipino ang nakakaranas ng gutom. Kung hindi ito maituturuing kaagad, ito ay nahantong sa malnutrisyon. Sa resulta ng 2nd quarter 2008 *hunger survey* ng SWS:
  - 16.3% (2.9 milyong pamilya) ang nakaranas ng gutom sa nakalipas na 3 buwan
  - 3.2% (570 libong pamilya) sa mga ito ang nakaranas ng "severe" gutom
  - Ang NCR ang may pinakamaraming nagugutom (22%); sunod ang Visayas (19.7%) at Mindanao (17.7%)
- Ang paglaas ng presyo ng pangunahing pagkain at krudo, at mga kalamidad ang sanhi ng paglaas ng dami ng mga nagugutom

CIIF

Patuloy ang pagkilos natin upang masiguro ang pagkain sa bawa't mesa.

LABANAN ANG KAHIRAPAN

Panlilio unfazed by recall bid launched by foes

CAMIGUIN, PAMPANGA—GOV. Eddie Panlilio went on with his usual schedule yesterday, seemingly unperturbed by the recall campaign against him.

Speaking toward the end of the 90km to the Virgin de Lazalde Festival in Barangay Talisay here, Panlilio did not tackle the recall move by the Bagumbayan-Lakas ang Demokratikong Pilipino (Bambino).

Panlilio usually spends his Sundays attending Mass or religious services of faith groups to which he belongs. The stops formed his weekend schedule.

In the Mass, he explained to about 3,000 churchgoers the grounds for good governance and responsible citizenship that, he said, ordinary citizens must participate in.

He said the best reason to try to do is to pay God to the corner of politics, to serve the way God serves," Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, said in Filipino.

The priest officiating the Mass followed Panlilio to address churchgoers before he gave the final blessing ending the celebration.

"Some politicians forget that public office is for public service. In all of us should be working together to transform politics to make it serve the people," Panlilio said.

He said doing good governance through honest leadership was difficult but not impossible.

"I did not receive even one centavo from the 'jueteng' lord," Panlilio said.

He asked them to do their bit in the responsible citizenship program by not betting on jueteng, pamboy, gambling, prostitution and participating in community projects.

"We can strengthen each other's efforts," he said.

Asked why he did not reach the recall issue, Panlilio said: "We will address it when it is filed with the Comelec (Commission on Elections)."

KAMBILAN leaders, led by Nanay Henares, slam the recall campaign against Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio on Thursday for lack of confidence. TONY G. TIMPAO

He acknowledged the group Kaya Natin! in media reports there on Sunday said Panlilio today would issue in Quezon City a formal statement on the recall move against him.

In the round-of-one with barangay officials and residents in Candaba and San Luis town on Sunday, some brought up the recall issue but Panlilio declined to discuss this, encouraging them instead to bring up local issues and needs.

"Let's think of ways to unite and bring reforms to our beloved province. I will admit I have differences with some local officials but there are no reasons for me to stop working with them," he said.

His supporters belonging to the group Kasingi Inc. joined Panlilio in his round-of-one on Sunday.

Dr. Jose Mari Sandico, Kasingi chair, said his group has reached plans to deal with the recall move, mainly through a grassroots information campaign.

"We will not let a good leader go," Sandico said.

Kambilan has started its campaign to gather 100,000 signatures from registered voters in the province to meet the first requirement of the recall petition.

Former Board Member Henry Henares, Kambilan president, said the 5,000 volunteers of the group have been collecting signatures since the launch of the recall drive on Aug. 23.

Kasingi and the Kapampangan Coalition Inc. have vowed to unite with Panlilio. Among local civil society groups, only the Kapampangan Managed Inc. has yet to make public its position.

The Pampanga Mayors' League, on the other hand, expressed support for Kambilan's recall campaign.

Vice Gov. Joselito Calma and 11 provincial board members will base their position on the issue next week, it was learned. Jhaniece Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

DepEd to send medical team to school 'haunted' by 'spirits'

CALAMBA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Education plans to send a medical team to a public high school in Calauan, Laguna, after 23 students and a teacher allegedly suffered "mild spirit" have affected 26 students, a school official told the Inquirer Sunday.

Quezon Education Secretary Jesli Lapuz who called him Saturday Henry Tan gal, principal of Pedro Panglipan Memorial National High School, said the mass might include a psychologist.

Since the incident, classes have been disrupted with 23 students with seizure attacks, said Tangol.

Located in the village of Coronel, 50 meters away from the highway the school has 692 students and has graduates who became scholars and honor students in college.

In past years, one or two cases of seizure have been reported but on the last week of July, as many as 23 students were reported having seizures," Tangol said.

From Aug. 8 until Aug. 10, classes were disrupted because of the disturbances, and other students were joining in the hysteria, he added.

On Friday, when classes were declared no more returned, new seizure incidents involving five students prompted school administrators to suspend classes again, he said.

Tangol said they even invited healers who "offered" rare black pigs to drive away the bad spirits.

Affected students have pointed to evil spirits angered by the cutting of a 10- to 40-year-old tree at the backyard of the campus building.

"But that was done at least years ago," said Tangol, now on his ninth year as school head.

A blessing was also conducted in the campus, Fr. Pat Palmelo, president of the Diocese Word College of Calauan, upon request of some students.

"Scheduled exams were postponed on Aug. 14-15 but students didn't obey our advice to stay home until things return to normal," said Tangol.

One girl had seizure attacks in the house, he said.

"I even saw a student with patches of pieces of an interrogation paper on the head and drops of candle wax on the chest after treatment by the faith healer," said the principal.

The school administration had appealed for help from experts. "We're open to whatever will be effective and will heal the students. For many our classes to return to normal as soon as possible," said Tangol. Abakosme Pérez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Bicolanos 'dizzy' from aftershocks

LEGAZPI CITY—"SHOCKED YOU Aqua (Is there an earthquake)?"

This question has been popping up more frequently here, said Iriadel Bolong, a tile clerk, and every other experiencing successive aftershocks following the magnitude 5.1 earthquake last Friday, which registered intensity 6 in Albay and Catanduanes provinces, 5 in Sorsogon, and 3 in Camarines Sur and Masbate.

"I don't get curious sickness easily but since the earthquake and the aftershocks, I've been feeling dizzy," Gian Carlo Arroz, 22, a nursing student here, said.

"I just pause for a minute and feel my surroundings if anything else is moving. But it's strange, even without an earthquake, other people have been experiencing this, too," he described.

"Even when the most severe aftershock passed, I still felt like I was being shook. Now, I feel like I am constantly moving. I keep on asking people around me if there really is an earthquake or if it's just me," Wilma Grande, 46, a drugstore attendant in Daraga town, said.

The motion sickness experienced by some after the Friday quake may not be purely psychological or magic-inclined.

Although the only perceptible aftershocks here were on Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon, Monday morning and Wednesday evening, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director Renato Solidum said over local radio that several 800 aftershocks had actually been recorded.

Very few of these aftershocks had been felt.

The perceptible aftershocks have ranged from magnitude 2 to 5, but majority of the aftershocks recorded by seismographs registered less than magnitude 1 or 2, Alex Baldoz, senior science research analyst at the Phivolcs Lignon Hill observatory here, said.

Meanwhile, intensity describes the strength of the quake based on its observable effects.

Intensity 5 quake is felt by everyone, while intensity 3 means the earthquake is strong enough to awaken sleeping people and could be felt by almost everyone. Intensity 2 means the earthquake could only be felt by people at rest.

Arlene Dayao, senior geologist at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Bicol office, said aftershocks can continuously occur as long as new stress after the major earthquake, which means incidences may still experience milder tremors until next week.

Disaster officials advised people to be prepared for the random aftershocks.

"Aftershocks are usually weaker than the major earthquake," Dayao assured.

Phivolcs senior science research specialist Ed Laguerta said that the quakes were still "shallow."

Like most locals here, Grande feared that the quakes are related to the abnormal behavior of Albay's Mayon Volcano, which spewed a 200-meter ash column last Aug. 10. But experts dismiss the possibility, saying the recent earthquakes are tectonic and Vocalitan-related."

"Tectonic plates move from time to time. It's a natural phenomenon," Dayao said.

Cedric Daep, Albay Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer, said it was normal for Bicol to experience quakes, since the region is located on fault lines. He said they were conducting an information drive on how to respond to quakes. Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BAGAN, ISABELA

9 fishers missing

COAST Guard personnel have begun scouring the sea off Camiguin Island in Calayan, Cagayan, in look for nine people reported missing since Aug. 10 after their boats were battered by strong wind and waves in separate incidents.

Chief Insp. Roberto Bernier, Cagayan Valley police director and regional disaster coordinating council chair, said Bodet Calagnio, Dennis Garaldo, Christopher Imos, Teofilo Cadiz and Ernie Reyes, all of Barangay Magsidlan, Camalguian, were reported missing after their boat, MBCA Saint Joseph, encountered strong waves as Typhoon "Nuri" hit Northern Luzon.

Bernier said four men aboard the MBB Purpleheart—Rolino Barnagat, Alberto Barnagat, Gilbert Mendoza and Edwin Reyes—were also reported missing that day when their boat capsized.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ TABACO CITY

Conjoined twins die seconds after birth

A 26-YEAR-OLD housewife here gave birth to eight-pound conjoined female twins early Sunday morning. The twins had two heads but only one body—with two hands and two feet.

Angelina Semper, of Purok 6, Barangay Pinas and her partner Ricardo Bedillo, 40, were so happy since the midwife announced that a baby girl (had given birth to) and that another baby girl. But the excitement turned into sadness seconds after Semper gave birth to the conjoined twins when the babies died seconds after birth.

Bedillo, a pedicab driver earning only P120-P150 a day, however, said that would not be enough to do so. He had no money to pay for the hospital bills and medicines.

Jill E. Bales, Contributor Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ KIDAPAWAN CITY

Fire marshal slain

THE motorcycle-riding armed men gunned down the provincial fire marshal of Bulan on Friday afternoon.

Supt. Ferdinand Del Castillo, chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection in Bulan, died from multiple lethal wounds inside his head, according to Senior Supt. Ramoncar Tabios, acting Bulan City police director in telephone interview.

Tabios said Del Castillo, 51, was walking towards his home at Land Heights Subdivision in Quezon Street, Barangay District 2 at about 5 p.m. when five gunmen repeatedly shot him at close range.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

GMA orders DPWH to start building P48-M Cebu bridge

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways to start the construction of the P48-million bridge that will ease traffic congestion at a major artery between Cebu and Mandaue cities.

The President issued the instruction to Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane after inspecting the proposed site of the bridge in Barangays Cansaboan-Cabancalan in Mandaue City, according to Cebu 6th district Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

Soon-Ruiz, who initiated the bridge project, said the President wanted DPWH to publish the invitation to bid by Thursday and hopefully by October, the actual construction will start.

Soon-Ruiz said she was happy with the action of the President because the budget for the bridge has long been approved but the DPWH has been delaying its implementation for no apparent reason.

Soon-Ruiz said the cost of the bridge might reach P65 million because of the escalation of the cost of materials.

She said the project was proposed last year with an initial budget of P100 million including the drainage improvement of the three roads near the bridge but Mandaue-pushed it down to P100 million.

After the President approved the project, Soon-Ruiz said she followed it up several times with the DPWH and the Department of Budget and Management but she said she was given the run-around by these agencies.

So when she learned that President Arroyo was visiting in Cebu yesterday for the inauguration of the new campus of the Sacred Heart School-Ateneo (SHS-JC), she arranged for the inspection of the bridge site, which is located near the school campus.

Soon-Ruiz said she (DPWH) would first prioritize the construction of the bridge, which will be finished in six months from October, before the agency starts the development of the roads' drainage system in the area.

She said the bridge would address the traffic problems in the area, which is an access for students numbering 10,000 students, who mostly come from Cebu City.

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Disbarment case filed vs one Sabio

By Lelo B. Salmorin

BEFORE HE COULD DISARM HIS ACTIONS as a panel created by the Supreme Court, Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio has been slapped with a disbarment complaint for allegedly trying to influence his brother in a case between the Government Service Insurance System and Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Filing the complaint on Aug. 21 before the high court's Office of the Bar Confidant, lawyer Fernando Perlas invoked the Code of Professional Responsibility that requires lawyers to refrain from influencing the courts, cultivating familiarity with judges or seeking interference by another branch of government in the normal course of judicial proceedings.

Perlas asked that Sabio be investigated and be permanently barred from the legal profession if he is found liable for unethical conduct.

Perlas cited Sabio's repeated call on his younger brother, Court of Appeals Justice Jose Sabio Jr., during which he reportedly tried to persuade the latter not to issue the temporary restraining order being sought by Meralco in the case it filed against the GSIS and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Jose Sabio, in his affidavit submitted to the panel investigating alleged improprieties in relation to the case, said Camilo had called to him and apparently knew facts about the case he did not know about.

"What business indeed did Camilo Sabio have in arguing his case in which Meralco-nateng had an interest...in the point of endangering his brother's career?" Perlas said.

He said Sabio breached legal ethics when he tried in every his brother to favor the government.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

LOCATED on the former Mendiola Bridge in Manila is a monument of Joaquin "Chino" Roces which shows the "grand old man" of Philippine journalism half-kneeling and holding a cross. The monument commemorates Roces' defiance of antiriot policemen who used water cannons on him and on other demonstrators near Malacañang. The bridge is now named after him.
Cyril L. Bautista, Inquirer Research

MMDA TRAFFIC ENGINEERING CENTER STUDY

'U-turns lead to big gas savings'

By DJ Yap

AN IN-HOUSE study conducted by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has shown that its much maligned U-turn slots on major thoroughfares has led to P40 million to P50 million in fuel savings for motorists every year since 2005.

The MMDA also pointed out that its streaming schemes have saved motorists more than P2 billion yearly in terms of gains in opportunity and productivity as a result of lower travel time.

The cost-savings analysis was based on the findings of a study conducted by the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center, the agency's public information office said in a statement yesterday.

"In terms of fuel savings only, P40.04 million [has been] saved every year since 2005 on normal U-turn slots vis-a-vis unsignalized roads, while P51.45 million [has been] saved on U-turn slots vis-a-vis signalized roads," it quoted MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando as saying.

According to the MMDA, the savings resulted from significant increases in the average vehicular speed on major thoroughfares where 23 U-turn slots had been set up by the agency.

"In terms of time savings to motorists, or the savings in take-home pay and lost opportunity and productivity, it was revealed that up to P2.33 billion [has been] saved every year since 2005," the agency said.

The MMDA observed that despite brickbats thrown its way because of the "unconventional" U-turn slot scheme, "what they don't know is that the U-turn slot has operational efficiency in time and space."

"In a U-turn slot, the flow of vehicles is nonstop and nonjam," the agency added.

"This is felt even more when traveling at night, as unlike the flow of traffic at the U-turn slot is continuous, traffic-wise motorists where motorists need to stop at the red lights," it said.

Police catch car thieves, recover vehicle

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE SUSPECTED CAR THIEVES WERE arrested in Quezon City on Friday night.

Operatives of the Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping unit (QCPD-Ancar) also recovered the vehicle—a white 1998 Toyota Corolla (UIL-906)—owned by Andrea Reyes, a resident ordered.

An Ancar report said the car was taken while it was parked on Gastrotes Street, Sawmillo III in Barangay Bahayan, Quezon City, between 11 p.m. Thursday and 5 a.m. Friday.

At around 10 p.m. Friday, Ancar personnel led by SPO2 Severino Bane were on patrol on Batasan Road when they spotted the stolen vehicle. They flagged the car down but the driver of the stolen Toyota Corolla stepped on the gas, prompting the police to give chase.

The police finally caught up with the vehicle on Commonwealth Avenue near the corner of Don Antonio Street. Placed under arrest were Raymund Blanco, Juan Sandoval and Noel Arsenio.

Cops tap street vendors in anticrime campaign

By Beverly T. Mahinlad

WHO BETTER TO HELP THE police curb crimes in the streets than vendors who are prominently there 24/7?

The rulers of Marikina and Antipolo, as well as the municipality of Colaso in Rizal province, will tap sidewalkers and street vendors in its campaign against street crimes.

The program, which was initiated by the vendors themselves through their group—Sinadyan and Vendors of Colaso, Marikina, Antipolo Association (SIVOMAA)—was proposed as a way of helping the police reduce criminality in the streets.

SIVOMAA president Eulogio Alfonso said they would form a volunteer brigade which would work together with the police to maintain peace and order in the three areas.

"By volunteering our services as the community we also hope to further our local leaders' vision of a peaceful and orderly environment," he said.

At least one mayor in Metro Manila, Marikina's Marides Fernando, has expressed her support for the program as well as her intention to cooperate with the volunteer group.

According to Fernando, the information and support that INVOMAA members can provide authorities will be useful in weed outbreaking crimes in the city streets.

"The firsthand experience will come in handy in determining ways to improve order and discipline, especially in high-traffic areas in the city" she said.

Fernando also lauded the group for getting involved in community activities.

GRF @ 50

GERRY ROXAS FOUNDATION'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

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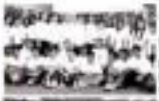
5 GRF Programs



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Barangay Justice Service System

Provides access to justice for family and community peace.

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Catalyzes private sector collaboration with LGUs to ensure better access to quality health services.

Local Government Development

Provides capability building and technical assistance to improve the performance of LGUs.

GERRY ROXAS LEADERSHIP AWARDEES are invited to join the launch of the Foundation's 50th Anniversary on August 25 at 10:30 am, Mandarin Suites, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center Q.C.

GRF

E-mail: grfmail@gerryroxasfoundation.org Tel Nos: (02) 913-0439 • (02) 421-4006 Website: www.gerryroxasfoundation.org

DANGEROUS DANGLING WIRES

Ben Bacagan, 19, of Quezon City writes: "There are dangling cables/wires on Malinaga Street in Teachers Village, Quezon City, that are dangerous to passersby and children. The wires have been there for more than one year now. Complaints brought to PLDT, Meralco and our barangay have been turned as fair. What do we have to do to get action? Please help, thanks."

Truck ban during peak hours

[illegible] of banning trucks on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, why doesn't the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority ban trucks during peak hours? These vehicles occupy more space and turn slower at the U-turns. In case the MMDA hasn't studied the traffic history of Loyola Heights, they should notice that the traffic on Katipunan and C. P. Garcia Avenues started to worsen when trucks began using these routes.

ENG. ED Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City

Reader says thanks

JUST wanted to give an update on the diggings at the corner of Zobel Avenue and Bel-Air-Highway (sidewalk in front of Sacred Heart school to Boulevard). Okay na po at tinapos na nila sa awtoridad at inayos na po ang daloy ng trapiko. (The site of the diggings has already been completed and the traffic now flows smoothly.) Thank you and God bless.

CALSY ARTEMIO, via Friendmail, Quezon City

Pedicabs kings of the road in Quiapo

ANG MGA PEDICAB ang dahilan ng traffic dito sa Carlos Palanca Street, Quiapo, dahil pare-parehong at nakatambang sa kanya-kanya nilang pasaherong naghihintay sa kanila ng sakay. (Pedicabs that counterflow traffic are the cause of traffic jams on Carlos Palanca Street in Quiapo. Apart from being just new the place, these speeding pedicabs are also a threat to pedestrians who get in their way.) Who will obey them?

ARMAY GARCIA, 22, Quiapo Market, Quiapo

Check illegal settlers at Balintawak overpass

[illegible] ng mga iskwater sa riles ng tulay ang tuwirang ng kapitan ng Kamias (Balintawak) overpass papunta Del Monte sa Quezon City. (Illegal settlers living under the bridge have been chipping away at the railing of the stairway at the Kamuning (Balintawak) overpass leading to Quirino Highway in Quezon City.) Authorities concerned should check this blatant destruction of a vital infrastructure. Either na sana kwenta to have relocation na sila rin sana.

TESSIE DE VILLA, Quezon City

MetroBriefs

Man's body found floating in Manila Bay

THE MANILA Police District is looking into the case of an unidentified man whose body was found floating in Manila Bay yesterday morning. The victim—about 35 to 40 years old and 5'4" to 5'5" in height, with tattoos of a woman's face and a dragon on his back—was spotted by a fisherfolk's crew member at Pier 15, Port Area, Manila. The discovery of the body was reported to the Philippine Coast Guard which notified the police. SPO2 Edmund Cabal of the MPD Homicide division said the victim, who wore a red T-shirt and a pair of denim short pants, may have been dead for several days. Although there was no signs of injuries on the victim's body, the police said they would conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of his death.

Allison M. Lopez

THE ALL-DAY, ALL-WEATHER WORKHORSE

CARGO MOVERS... PEOPLE CARRIER...

TRADE-UP DEALS

US, global economies slip in unison

NEW YORK—ECONOMIC TROUble has spread far beyond the United States to major economies in Europe and Asia, threatening American businesses with the loss of foreign sales and investment that have become increasingly vital to their endeavors.

Only a few months ago, some economists still offered hope that robust expansion could continue in much of the world even as the US economy slowed. Foreign investment was expected to keep replenishing American banks still bleeding from their disastrous bets on real estate and provide customers for companies looking to expand. Overseas demand for American goods and services was supposed to continue overpowering the waning demand in the States.

Now, high energy prices, financial systems crippled by four small dot clusters of trading partners have combined to choke growth in many major economies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects global growth to slow significantly through the end of this year, dipping to 4.1 percent from 5 percent in 2007.

"The global economy is in a tough spot, caught between sharply slowing demand in many advanced economies and rising inflation everywhere," the IMF declared last month in its official World Economic Outlook.

All this means that economic troubles in the United States could unravel into the protracted election season and beyond. It could also make it harder for financial companies like Lehman Brothers, which has been seeking fresh investment in South Korea...and the government-backed mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to attract much-needed capital from abroad.

As the United States and many other large economies slip in unison, the reality of integrated markets is being underscored: just as globalization spreads prosperity...linking remote factories in Texas to textile mills in China—the same forces spread bust when times go bad.

"The slowdown has reached such a wide range of countries that they've now feeding on one another," said Alan Ruskin, chief international strategist at RBS Greenwich Capital. NYT

WorldBriefs

Russia moves to recognize Georgia rebel regions

MOSCOW—Russia's parliament moves on Monday to consider recognizing Georgia's two breakaway regions as independent, mostly three months after Russian troops rolled into the neighboring republic. Recognition would mean crossing a threshold for Moscow, which has backed the separatists in Abkhazia and South Ossetia since their break with Tbilisi in the early 1990s but stopped short of declaring them independent from Georgia. Both houses of Russia's parliament are to convene emergency sessions to examine appeals for recognition from South Ossetia...where fighting this month prompted Russia to send troops—and Abkhazia. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are internationally recognized as part of Georgia and anyone to declare them independent countries to worsen anger Tbilisi and fuel the crisis in relations between Russia and the West. AFP

Saudi court to rule on divorce plea by girl, 8

RIYADH—A Saudi court will next month hear a plea for divorce from an 8-year-old girl married off by her father to a man in his fifties, the Arabic-language daily Al-Watan reported on Sunday. It said the girl's mother had filed the divorce case with the court at Unayzah 220 km north of Riyadh, and cited lawyer Abdullah Alli as saying the father had arranged the marriage without telling the girl. "She doesn't know yet that she has been married," added Alli of the girl who is about to begin her fourth year at primary school. Al-Watan said relatives of the girl had told a Saudi rights group of her plight and urged it to intervene to have the marriage annulled. But the daily also reported that the husband had refused to renounce the marriage, saying that he had not done anything illegal. Arranged marriages involving pre-adolescents are occasionally reported in the Arabian Peninsula, including in the ultra-conservative Saudi kingdom where the strict conservative Wahhabi version of Islam forbids sleep and polygamy to satanists. In Yemen in April, another girl aged 8 was granted a divorce after her unemployed father forced her to marry a man of 30. AFP

Thousands protest land seizure for India's Nano car

KOLKATA, India—Thousands of protesters surrounded a factory building where is billed as the world's cheapest car, the Nano, in the biggest demonstration yet against seizure of farmland for industry in eastern India on Sunday. Enthusiasm for the Tata Motors $2,000 snub-nosed "people's car" has been dampened by months of protests by farmers refusing to give their land for the project, now hobbled by cost overruns. The car's planned October launch is also threatened. Reuters

Scientists nail childhood nerve cancer gene

PARIS—French researchers have identified the hereditary gene mutations behind a deadly form of childhood cancer, opening the way to genetic tests in high-risk families, according to study released on Sunday.

The same suspected gene has been previously linked to hypertension and lung cancer in adults, so affected children could benefit from experimental drugs designed to suppress its activity, the study says.

"This very important discovery not only helps us understand the genetic roots of this terrible disease, but also has led to dramatically new ideas for curative therapy," said lead researcher John Maris, head of the Center for Childhood Cancer Research at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Neuroblastoma attacks the nervous system. While fairly rare, it accounts for seven percent of all childhood cancers and 15 percent of non-solid cancer deaths.

The disease has long puzzled scientists because of its highly variable outcomes: some forms strike infants but then vanish without treatment, while other variants, especially in older children, can be relentlessly aggressive.

"This discovery enables us to offer the first genetic tests to families affected by the inherited form of this disease," said Yael Mossé, lead author and a pediatric oncologist at Children's Hospital. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Queen

CORONATION AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Obama seeks to inspire as history beckons

DENVER, COLORADO—BARACK Obama will seek to bond with Americans still weary of his exotic life story and crusade for change, as he makes history by becoming the first black presidential nominee this week.

The 47-year-old son of a Kenyan goat herder and a white American mother will cap a resumption of political vibe by formally accepting his party's charge as millions of viewers tune into the Democratic National Convention from Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

Amid rumbustious chat only a White House race can whip up, Senator Obama will try to recast the contest to November's election, after a barrage from his Republican foe John McCain reduced the race to a dead heat.

A compelling subplot will also unfold, as Hillary Clinton, who saw Obama halt her years quest for history and had to become America's first woman president, is crowbarred by a party cursed in turn by their unconscious duel.

The former first lady and her still smarting husband ex-president Bill Clinton, scorched after dominating Democratic politics for a generation, will be scrutinized for any sign they are thwarting party unity.

With millions of voters tuning into the race for the first time, Barack Hussein Obama has a priceless chance to flesh out his biography, and re-portray his ego-to-riches success as the very embodiment of the American dream.

He has to make people more comfortable with him as a person," said Andrew Rivedlis, a political science professor at the University of Arkansas. "This is his real opportunity here."

Obama preaches post-racial message of unity and hope, but his image and bid to court core blue-collar Democrats was bolted when tirades of his African-American former pastor exploded into public view early this year.

Recent McCain attacks have also set him back, painting his soaring rhetoric as the stuff of a raucous and hubristic celebrity unwilling lacking experience required of a US commander-in-chief.

Julian Zelizer, a history professor at Princeton University, agreed Obama's White House hopes might rest in dulling himself, before Republican pitbull attack troops do it for him.

"If he doesn't, he is going to have a big problem," Zelizer said.

"He has had a really difficult month in August, and the Republicans have done a pretty good job in framing him."

The milestone Illinois state lawmaker who took US politics by storm with a rousing speech at the 2004 Democratic convention, preached an end to shrill and hate politics.

But the Obama of August 2008 seems to have embraced some of those tactics, flaying Republicans who take a recorded earth path to the White House.

In 2004, Democratic nominee John Kerry was doomed for going too easy at his convention on President George W. Bush.

Obama's stiffened rhetoric and pick of veteran bruiser Sen. Joseph Biden as his vice presidential running mate, suggest he won't make a similar mistake.

"I suppose we are going to hear more contrast between what Democrats are about and what he is about versus McCain," said Aitken. AFP

OBAMA and his wife Michelle

Thoroughly modern Michelle, Obama's other half

By Jo Biddle

DENVER, COLORADO—BARACK Obama's wife Michelle, 44, is shaping up to be a formidable political force in her own right, with a down-to-earth style that could help her husband win the White House.

Michelle Obama, who is set to address the Democratic National Convention on Monday, is a graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law School and has worked as a lawyer, a university administrator and a community activist.

She has been a key adviser to her husband throughout his campaign, and is credited with helping him to overcome early doubts about his readiness for the presidency.

Michelle Obama, who was born in Chicago to parents of modest means, has been criticized for her blunt comments about race and politics, but she has also won praise for her warmth and her ability to connect with ordinary people.

She

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **China bags** boxing golds; Cuba zero /A28

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Franck E.J. Ochoa

■ **Eagles** close in on s'final bonus /A28

Injured Estimar settles for silver

Foe, crowd applaud gallant Pinay

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

BEIJING—MARY Jane Estimar fighting nonstop to her ankle and shoulder, bowed to Chinese Qin Lin in an all-feminized final that broke the gallery's heart Sunday and settled for the silver medal at the Beijing Science weight-lifting here.

Estimar's Chinese rival Lin Tuli stopped her from climbing back to the arena for the second round, giving about 4,000 fight fans at the Olympic Sports Center venue the cue to celebrate the young Filipino monarch's bravery in the 53 kg. division (lighting) final.

The gallery erupted but there when Qin, who was taller by four inches, approached and offered his hand in confiding Estimar and then lifted her with a bear hug for some 10 seconds.

"She (Estimar) was very brave," Qin later told the because through an interpreter. "Despite her injuries from the previous fights, she fought well and did not surrender. My

REUTERS ACT

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Host China tops Olympic gold medal tally /A25

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Makati Recruitment office (3rd floor) will extend recruitment operations from 6 PM to 10 PM on Aug. 24 (Tuesday) and Aug. 25 (Friday). FREE COFFEE & MEALS WILL BE SERVED PLUS A FREE MOVIE TREAT.

UNDER-16 CHESS OLYMPIAD

RP keeps title hopes alive

MERSIN, TURKEY—WITH GRANDmaster Wesley So proving almost unstoppable on board one, the Philippines stayed within striking distance for the gold medal in the 2008 World Under-16 Chess Olympiad.

In wins for the eighth time in nine matches in fourth-seed Philippines battled third-seed Azerbaijan to a 2.5 draw to stay in third place going into the 10th and final round in the Men's Team Championship. Sports third here early Sunday.

So, the highest-rated player here with an Elo of 2377, made short work of fellow GM Oleg Salaiets to lead the way for the Filipinos, who can match the overall title with a shocker win over lowly-rated Irak Turkey in the final round.

RP GRANDMASTER Wesley So (left) and Azerbaijan's Oleg Salaiets ponder their next moves.

The 14-year-old Filipino champion, who also defeated Tung-Sai Zhou to the Philippines' 3.1 win over England in the eighth round late Saturday, is already assured of his second straight individual gold medal on board one with a spectacular 96.4 performance rating.

So can formalize his claim to the individual gold medal with a win over second board Ihsan Ekin Acuoglu in the 10th of Irak Turkey in the final round.

The high school student at St. Francis College-Rosario also bagged the individual gold medal in last year's edition held in Singapore where the Philippines finished third behind India and Hungary.

Overall, the Philippines remained in third place with 29 points, two behind top seed Russia and one behind defending champion India going into the 10th and final round of this prestigious tournament being held in this major commercial city and shipping port on Turkey's eastern Mediterranean coast.

Russia bounced back from a stunning 1-3 loss to the Philippines in the seventh round with a pair of lopsided victories—4-0 over 161 Lanka in the eighth round and 3.5-.5 over host Turkey in the ninth round.

India, which handed the Philippines' lone setback, 1.5-2.5, in the sixth round, also moved in contenders with 6.4-0 sweep of Switzerland-A.

The second-seeded Indians, however, lost 1.5-2.5 to Turkey-4 in the eighth round late Saturday.

STANDINGS AFTER NINE ROUNDS

Russia—Russia 21—Irak 20—RP 29—Germany, 3—Georgia, 25—Armenia, 5—Turkey-4, 29—England, 29—Slovakia, tmc, 3—Turkey-C, 26 (tmc 9)—Turkey-B (undefeated).

PSC to cut support for some NSAs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO MONEY AND a very good sports program.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez said yesterday he would emphasize these two factors when he goes to have an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo in the aftermath of the Beijing Olympics where the country once again failed to win a single medal.

Ramirez will also invite Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Cesar Jalosjos, chair of the Senate and House committees on youth, sports, to "sit down and talk."

Congress determines the annual budget of the PSC.

The PSC head also said there will be changes in the PSC's relations with the Philippine Olympic Committee and the national sports associations.

"If there's going to be change, it should be there top to bottom," said Ramirez, referring to the controversy surrounding NSAs mired get little PSC support.

"We are fortunate if we can find 30 percent of them that are well-run. We have no leanings on 'kinsmen.'"

The PSC is also set to hold its general assembly next month which could scan the can-up or the shoulders shaved in November.

He said the PSC can't directly interfere with NSAs but "the most we could do is to cut the funding on those which don't adhere to our policies."

Ramirez earlier stated that the PSC's executives will be focused on the 10 priority sports that include boxing, taekwondo, wushu, shooting, archery, weightlifting, athletics and swimming.

Pencak silat badminton, which failed to produce an Olympic qualifier, can still make the list, he added.

The planned meeting coincides with the call of Olympic chief of mission Monico Puentevella to "overhaul" RP sports and get approval for the Department of Education, Local Government Budget and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation involved.

STILL TOPS Roger Federer, seeking a fifth straight title in the U.S. Open which starts tomorrow, relinquished the top spot to Spain's Rafael Nadal after a record 237 consecutive weeks. He is still No. 1 though when it comes to the biggest bank account. The Swiss master earned $35 million over the past year, almost twice Nadal's take of $18 million.

Gomez ends title drought in Davao

By Ray Leaves

DAVAO CITY— THREE WINS NO DEFEAT ing Roberto Gomez this time.

Gomez has remained for winning cup runners-up in the 2007 World Pool Championship, ruined local pool idol Gandy Valle, 11-4, Saturday night to rule the Pool Senate Presidents Shootout Billiard Cup Davao leg at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall here.

"Finally!" screamed Gomez, after Valle drove in the crucial nine-ball two-hands left in the final rack, handing Zamboanga's pride the crown and the P100,000 that goes with it.

The 29-year-old Gomez, who followed in the crucial stages of the WPC finals against Singaporean Sheryl Beach, bounced to a 7-2 lead and was never threatened by Valle, the Cebu leg winner of the island-hopping series presented by Villarder Tabing na Pagsibog ng Pilipinong Sports in partnership with the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP).

Valle settled for second and P120,000 in the tournament backed by Grenella Construction.

"I'm so sick and tired of always being a runner-up, which I've been about a dozen of times," said Gomez, adding that his World Pool debut continues to haunt him."

Gomez lost the big loss over the opening rack after Valle elained a tough-angled shot on the red-3, sparking the momentum that somewhat disappointed the nearly 7,000 fans.

"I really wanted to win this for my fellow Davaoenos, but breaks didn't come my way" said Valle, a former Asian Games gold medalist.

ROBERTO Gomez receives the prize from Sen. Manny Villar

His route to the finals, Gomez beat two-time World Junior champion Rene Mel Oreil, 9-4, in the opener; ruling cup Elmer Haya, 9-6, in the second round, former double world champion Bustamante Alcano, 9-7, in the quarterfinals; and world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo, 10-7, in the semifinals.

Milo race: De Asis nips España; Yambao sisters 1-2

JUST OF ASIS EDGE JOHNNY ESPAÑA in a photo finish duel to win the 21st Pebble leg of the 32nd National Milo Marathon Sunday that started and ended in front of the City Hall.

The duo, both from Mindanao, were in a neck-and-neck race to the last three kilometers before the 17-year-old De Asis from Sultan Kudarat pulled off the hard-earned win.

De Asis and España both clocked 1:13.24 and booked a trip tickets to the finals on Nov. 29 aside from winning P10,000 and P6,000, respectively.

"It was a rough race," said De Asis, a third year physical education student of the Eastern University after nipping his 23 year-old rival from University of Santo Tomas. "I summoned all my remaining strength to win. I'm happy I made it."

Carlos Mangca Jr. also made the finals by placing third in 1:16.18, edging Dejon Dequero (1:16.20).

Sisters Lica Yambao reclaimed her younger sister to rule the women's side in 1:47.53. Her 16-year-old sibling clocked 1:48.17 while Anny Calma came in third in 1:49.37.

Competitors drifts to Eastern Visayas on Aug. 31 with the staging of the 144-k leg in Tacloban City Leyte.

BY TOP CHOICE
BY SHAKTA KHA PHAR

Race 1—(01)—Hulk, Bill (2), Kara Kotse (4), Winning Cut (5).
Race 2—(Undefeated—Arnel, Sale (1), Backyard Bully (2), Pilot Link (3), Tsavorite (4), Cyd Sagittarius (5).
Race 3—(02)—Sara, Meryl (1), Bonus Gain (2), Kimberly (3), Cyd Sagittarius (4), Pilot (5).
Race 4—(Undefeated—Ann Mica (1), Abel's Dove (2), Sir Lancelot (3), Kim Jane (5), Pilot (7).
Race 5—(02)—Ally Mae (1), Sweet Lady (2), Kathryn (3), Bon Shooting (5).
Race 6—(Undefeated—Mahatao, Rose (2), Cyd Sagittarius (3), Lucky (4), Undefeated (5), Pilot (7).
Race 7—(02)—Makabo Beach (1), Mother Lode (2), Pretty Lucky (3), Undefeated (4), Pilot (5).
Race 8—(Undefeated—Carter (1), Bonus Gain (2), Pilot (3), Undefeated (4), Cyd Sagittarius (5).
Race 9—(Undefeated—Lights On (1), Mahatao, Rose (2), Dancing Lights (3), Mahatao, Bill (5), Pilot (7), Undefeated (8).
Race 10—(Undefeated—Jamie (1), Pilot (2), Dancing Cat Sagittarius (3).

SPORTSWATCH

Rambulan round 2 today

METRO MANILA'S COCKFIGHTING action shifts to San Juan Coliseum today for the second round of "QC Rambulan Open 4-stag derby" featuring some 80 fights.

The slugfest opened on Saturday with 82 entries. Three more elimination rounds will be held on Aug. 27, 30 and Sept. 1. The final round arranges on Sept. 6.

For more inquiries, call 5.6 office at tel. nos. 725-5359 or 5003.

Paya caging opens

LAST YEAR'S RUNNER-UP BUSINESS International School served notice of its title aspirations by trampling Southridge, 91-43, at the start of the 2008 Philippine athletic sports association (Paya) basketball tournament at the Lourdes School in Quezon City.

Veterans Johny Jacobson and Elijah Dagumpan (MVP/PTS 7-2) struck for the Oilers-based Tigerdiaks, who dominated the game from start to finish.

PSA Forum: Officials evaluate Beijing flop

THE COUNTRY'S TOP SPORTS officials make their personal evaluations of the country's tabled bid in the 2008 Beijing Olympics as they appear in the weekly PSA Forum which resumes its regular Tuesday session tomorrow at the Shakey's LRI Avenue branch.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Ramirez, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco and Philippine team chef de mission Monico Puentevella will take centerstage in the public sports program aired live over dzSR Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Shakey's. Asian broadcast partner and August spot and MediaCentral Market Clinic. Session starts at 10:30 a.m. PSA president Abner Cardona expects members to attend.

Realtors give high rating to Dillinger

HAVANA, Manila—The duo with from the Philippine amateurs of fun to the labor sendoff's office one pure agony, record it was only a few centimeters away.

The Sta. Lucia Realtors, 2007-2008 PBA All-Filipino champion, had paid a courtesy call on Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain Ed Maglaya that proceeded to the office next door where Olympic RP teammate (1996) were being sheltered.

Ambassador Maglaya said the (1996), all friends, usually get into trouble because they enter the country illegally. Consequently they are stranded.

The visiting Realtors were there to cheer them up and give away phone cards so they could call their families back home.

But the short walk between the two offices was far from being pleasant. The sun was blazing with the temperature registering about 40 degrees plus Celsius. The heat was unbearable.

The ambassador confirmed that August is the hottest month in the Gulf, estimating the current temperature in her to the vicinity of 42 degrees Celsius. He said it could go as high as 49 to 50 degrees but the actual reading is never made known to the public, probably in order not to scare the tourists away.

Sta. Lucia owner Ram Babiles, head of the visiting delegation, believed the temperature that day was at its maximum—49 to 50 degrees. He felt very uncomfortable and dehydrated even if he was exposed to the sun only for a few minutes.

***

The Realtors are on a three-city tour of the Gulf where they will play five exhibition games against local teams in every city. Their other stops are Doha, Qatar and Dubai.

Understandably, coach Boyet Fernandez is not too excited about the PBA rookie draft which is scheduled on Aug. 31, the arrival date of the Realtors in Manila.

The Realtors are hoping they would at least have nine to go Junior and Ibrahim so before they proceed to Herbert Harlan mall in Taguig City where the event will be held.

Boyet said he is not too keen on the draft because Sta. Lucia is the last to pick in the first round.

"By the time our turn comes around, baka wala nang mantra (there might be no more choices left)." Boyet said he needs a big man.

I asked him a hypothetical question if something like Leo was the first in the drafting order, whom would he pick?

Boyet didn't even have to think long.

"Dillinger," he readily replied, without batting an eyelash. His coaching staff Adonis Tiwon and Cheddy Ong, who were having breakfast in the same table, agreed. So did Realtor Ryan Reyes who has seen the cager play in the United States.

***

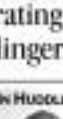
"But who is Dillinger?" I asked. I absolutely know nothing about his background. Is he related to the gangster John?

Boyet seems to know him well.

"He's a 6-5 Filipino-German who was discovered in Hawaii. He's best as the point but he also plays the 2, 3 and 4 positions. Anything going (they good). He's very versatile and can shoot and play one-on-one. The only thing we don't know is how well he can defend. He's an exciting player. He can also dunk and he has the body," Boyet filled us in.

Adonis and they agreed him on television playing for the Oregon team in the Sigs Pilipinas. And they got curious. Between Filipino-American Gabe Norwood and Dillinger (whose first name is Jared), the coaches' consensus was that they would pick Dillinger anytime.

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

OLYMPICS MEDAL TABLE
NESTLÉ MILO
The Official Energy Drink of the Philippine Team to the 2008 Beijing Olympics

FOUL TEMPER Cuba's Angel Matado Matos (left) kicks out to where Chalid Chelbat of Sweden is in the face during a bronze medal match against Kazakhstan's Arman Chilmanov in the men's taekwondo +80 kilogram class at the Beijing Olympics. Matos smashed the official, throwing punches and kicks, after being disqualified for his bronze medal match. Matos was leading, 3-1, when Chelbat disqualified him after taking too much injury time on two his four checks. The World Taekwondo Federation is now seeking a lifetime ban against the Cuban. AP

China tops Olympic gold medal race

BEIJING—CHINA PROVED AN ACQUISITIVE FRUIT FAIR OLYMPIC HOST TOPping the gold-medal chart with one of the most dominating and diverse performances ever. The United States, Britain and an array of small nations also had success to celebrate.

China's haul of 51 gold medals was the largest since the Soviet Union won 55 in Seoul in 1988. Fielding athletes guaranteed since childhood in sports academies, it won medals in 23 different sports, including its first ever in sailing, beach volleyball and field hockey.

Not since 1936, when Nazi Germany prevailed at the Berlin Olympics, had a country other than the US or the Soviet Union/Russia held the gold-medal list.

The United States smiled well behind the Chinese in gold with 36, the first time since 1992 it didn't lead the category. But the Americans did break their own mark for total medals in a non-boycotted Olympics: they won 110 in all, two more than their previous high set in 1992 and 19 ahead of China's even all tally this year.

Britain, getting an early jump on its home rule for the 2012 Summer Games, had its best Olympics in a century with 19 gold medals—good for fourth place behind the Russians. Its cyclists and rowers were the stars of the field, and 19-year-old Rebecca Adlington electrified the swimming world with two golds in distance events.

It was also a satisfying Olympics for many of the world's weaker sporting nations. A record 87 nations won medals, seven more than the previous high in Sydney in 2000, and a dozen nations won either their first ever gold medal or first medal of any color.

If there was a prominent loser at the games, it was Russia, whose team was deprived of 18 athletes due to doping accusations. The Russians finished a distant third in both gold medals, with 23, and overall medals with 71—down from 27 and 92 four years ago in Athens. Germany and Japan also fared noticeably worse than in Athens.

The United States was disappointed by its boxing team (one bronze medal) and a lack of golds by its sprinters, but was delighted by breakthroughs in losers sports such as fencing, as well as by the historic eight golds for record-smashing swimmer Michael Phelps.

"Back on the field of play and off, this will go down as one of the greatest performances ever for a United States Olympic Team," spokesman Darryl Seibel said Sunday.

Overshadowing the entire US effort, however, was a recognition of China's arrival as the dominant Summer Olympics power.

"China has been systematically targeting every single available medal, and we're going to have to do that in the future," said US Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth.

"The resources that they put toward their Olympic team and the population base and the dedication is fantastic," he said. "It's much more difficult for the rest of the world to compete, but that's the way it should be."

China, of course, has the largest population pool—1.3 billion people—from which to recruit athletes. Several lie smaller nations distinguished themselves in medals-per-capita.

China's victories included two golds in boxing, the country's first ever gold medals in the sport since banned by Mao.

Zou Shiming bagged China's first boxing gold by tapping the light flyweight gold. (See story on Page A24)

Jamaica's sprinters and hurdlers—led by triple-gold sensation Usain Bolt—won 11 medals, one for every 245,000 of its 2.7 million people. With a population of 11.4 million, Australia won 46 medals, one for each 465,000 people. Cuba won 24 medals, one for each 476,000 of its 11.3 million citizens.

ZOU

Philippines zero

Populous countries with no medals included Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

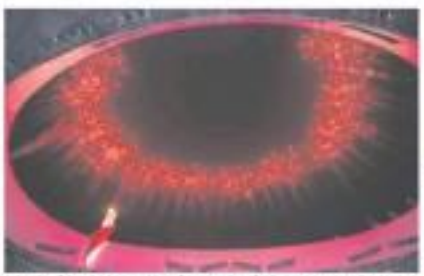
Kenya, despite election-related unrest which killed hundreds and displaced 300,000 people, had a great games with five golds and 14 medals overall. Ethiopian runners Kenenisa Bekele and Tirunesh Dibaba each won rare double golds in the 5,000 and 10,000.

Overall, Africa won 48 medals—far more ever. These included the first-ever Olympic medals for Togo in canoeing, Mauritius in boxing, and Sudan in the 800 metres. Also winning their first ever medals were Tajikistan, Bahrain (a gold by Rashid Ramzi in the men's 1,500), and war-torn Afghanistan.

Two other athletes, in addition to Ramzi, won their countries' first gold medals—Panamanian long jumper Irving Saladino and Mongolian judoka Naidangiin Tuvshinbayar.

Tuvshinbayar's medal triggered raucous celebrations in Mongolia's capital, Ulan Bator, and a presidential decree declared him a "Hero of Labor."

There were other break throughs—Ibrahim and South Korea won golds in swimming for the first time, long jumper Maureen Higa Maguire became the first Brazilian woman to win a gold in track. AP



FIREWORKS light the sky over the Bird's Nest National Stadium during the closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. AP

Zero for RP; a bumper crop of medals for SEAG rivals

By Antonio T. Enguscio, Jr.
News Editor

BEIJING—AS THE DEFIANT PHILIPPINE delegation brings home today stories of what might have been in Beijing, Southeast Asian rivals will have in their baggage another bumper crop of medals from the 29th Olympiad which ended Sunday.

Thailand once again leads the region in the medal tally with four medals—two gold and two silvers. Four other countries in the region won at least a medal each while the Filipinos, the overall champions of the Southeast Asian Games only three years ago, will have an initial among its souvenirs.

But Rep. Monico Puentevella, the Philippine team's chief of mission, has an explanation—the medals count is only a side issue.

"They spent more for sports," Puentevella said. "They had bigger budgets, even more than double their ours. They made sports a priority in government. What did you expect?"

He was quoted earlier as saying the Philippine Sports Commission was given a budget of only P70 million for each of the last three years. This year's budget, however, has been increased to P226 million.

Puentevella said he would propose the revival of his pet project, the Batang Pinoy which aims to develop promising youngsters even before they are 12 and concentrate on sports in the Olympic and Asian Games programme.

"If we start now, we might get lucky in London in 2012," he said. He vowed to deliver a privilege speech in the House of Representatives.

Indonesia, with one gold, one silver and three bronzes, has the most number of medals with five. Malaysia, Singapore and even Vietnam have a silver each.

Thailand's two golds came courtesy of veterans boxer Jongkolnee Sumsak and woman weightlifter Udomporn Polsak.

Jongkolnee, who won a disappointed second round loser to eventual gold medalist Yuberkis Quindana of Cuba in defense four years ago, came back with a vengeance and routed another Cuban fighter, Andris Laffita Hernandez, 8-2, in their flyweight finals match on Saturday.

He became the third Thai to win a boxing gold medal in the Olympics.

Featherweight Sombech Kamreng did it first, in Atlanta in 2000, and light welterweight Manus Boonjumnong pulled it off in Athens in 2004.

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September 8 | 9pm
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August 27-29 | 8am-12pm
September 1-2 | 2pm-4pm
September 3-5 | 8am-12pm
September 6-9 | 2pm-4pm
• Schedules are subject to change
ANC

FINAL RP RESULTS

Aug. 18
Shooting (Beijing Shooting Range)
EASE ANG—final placing: Trap for 32nd to 35th place, men's individual free

Aug. 19
Swimming (National Aquatics Center)
JAMES DELOS—final placing: 50th in heats in 44 men's 200-meter butterfly (1:58.28)

Weightlifting (Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
HIDILYN DIAZ—final placing: 15th place, clean & jerk and snatch: 102 kg total; 92kg women's 53 kg class

Aug. 22
Swimming
MIGUEL MOLINA—final placing: 40th in a field of 57, 6th in Heat 5, men's 100m breaststroke (1:02.26)

Aug. 23
Swimming
MIGUEL MOLINA—final placing: 35th in a field of 54, 3rd in Heat 2, men's 200m

Swimming
JASMINE ALKHAIM—final placing: 42nd in a field of 46, 6th in Heat 5, women's 100m freestyle

Rowing (Beijing Shunyi Olympic Rowing Park)
MARK JAMES—finished in 7:03 match by Ken Hong men's PR1, 1W, 1M

Rowing (Beijing Shunyi Olympic Rowing Park)
HARRY BARAWID—Eliminated in Round of 32 by Mongol Phuge (3:08), 0-2

Aug. 24
Rowing
ISABEL ISABELITA—final placing: 40th in a field of 57, 6th in Heat 8, men's 1M1 (double)

Aug. 26
Diving (National Aquatics Center)
LESLIE DEL FIERO—Final placing: 23rd included of 30, women's 3-meter springboard

Swimming
JASMINE ALKHAIM—final placing: 47th in a field of 52, heats in Heat 5, women's 50m freestyle

RYAN ARAGON—final placing: 29th in a field of 32, heats in Heat 3, 100m freestyle

Aug. 28
Athletics (National Stadium)
HENRY DAUPAN—Final placing: 34th in a field of 35 (2:20m), 18th of 20 in Group A, men's long jump

Aug. 29
Athletics
MARESTELLA TORRES—Final placing: 24th in a field of 45 (6.57m), 10th of 23 in Group B, women's long jump

Aug. 29
Taekwondo (University of Science and Technology Beijing)
TAKEHLOT LO—Eliminated by Ryan Lamoli Ardiz, 7-0, preliminary fight, men's -58 kg

Aug. 30
Taekwondo
MARY ANTOINETTE RIVERO—Eliminated by Sandra Sain (ISR), 4-1, preliminary fight, women's -49 kg

Boxing
RYAN REXEL VARGAS—Final placing: 25th in a field of 28, men's 57kg-over platform qualification (no 3rd of 4)-10m)

Rhythm (Special Event)
(Olympic Sports Center)
KELLY BORJE—Final placing: Gold medal: Lidia Sotnik), 32-45 points-synopsis (Lori Sandra) 8-14, synopsis GROUP 19 Birds,

Aug. 31
Rhythm (Special Event)
MARIAN ORAMBAS—Bronze medal: Women's synchro (lightweight)

ERNIE TORTO—Bronze medal: Men's synchro 55 kg

Aug. 31
Rhythm (Special Event)
MARY JANE VELTRAN—Silver medal: Women's synchro 52 kg

China bags boxing golds; Cuba zero

BEIJING—CHINA STOLE THE LIMELIGHT FROM THE MIGHTY CUBANS by winning their first two Olympic boxing titles to deadening roars from a thrilled record 12,000 crowd on Sunday.

Zou Shiming stunned the party by storming to unexpectedly easy flash victory over his Mongolian opponent Mitrig with a shoulder injury early in the second round of their light-flyweight bout.

Zou, who had won China's first boxing medal with a bronze in Athens four years ago, dropped himself to the Chinese flag and burst into tears during the medal ceremony.

"I did not cry four years ago when I got the bronze but I told myself, when you get gold, you can cry," the 23-year-old told reporters.

Light-heavyweight Zhang Xiaoping later doubled the hosts' tally by outpointing Kenny Egan 11-7, a verdict met by boos from a small but raucous Irish contingent who felt the score did not reflect the bout.

Zhang spent two medal favorites on his way to the title bout. He took an early lead and held it to a good-looking fight against Egan, who repeatedly struggled to land his punches despite an active attack.

Boxing was once a sport banned by popular Chinese leader Mao Zedong.

Cuba was pinning its last hopes on heavyweight Yunkiel Lena and welterweight Carlos Banteaux in both bout, as Shanghai's Jiadan Ungar Erdibiar and Kazakh Bakhyt Sarsekbayev respectively.

Erdibiar won Mongolia's first gold medal in boxing, beating Lena, 14-3.

Erdibiar surged to an early lead Saturday with three seconds of enormous Mongolian fans behind him. He easily held off Lena, the third Cuban to lose a gold medal bout in less than 24 hours.

Erdibiar, the world championship runner-up, captured just the second Olympic gold medal in any sport for Mongolia. Yershidayat Haidaer won the first in judo last week.

Sarsekbayev upset Banteaux, 18-9, Sarsekbayev had little international success before the Olympics, but he was quickest and most accurate from the ring. Banteaux on Sunday Sarsekbayev controlled the bout to win Kazakhstan's fifth boxing gold.

Apart from the 1964 and 1980 Games which they boycotted, Cuba had not left without a boxing title since the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

They had, however, come here with their most experienced squad in years after a string of defections and were not compromising after grabbing four silver and four bronze medals.

"Our team is very young," said Leon. "It's true that we haven't won a gold medal but I'm not aware of any problems with the team and I'm sure that in future competitions we'll be able to win many gold medals."

Wild celebrations by the Chinese fans drew a rare fine by Russian Alexey Tishchenko did perhaps not get the attention it deserved.

The feather-weight champion during the 2004 Athens Games, the red-haired Siberian used all his experience to win an 13-9 decision over French-born Ilsouda Sow in the lightweight final and claim the boxing's first gold medal of the Beijing Games.

Tishchenko hung on in a narrow lead against Sow, the surprising silver medallist.

Tishchenko got the decision despite a point with 13 seconds left, swelling Sow's coaches into a demonstrative protest.

The super-heavyweights closed a busy show and two weeks of action with Italian Roberto Cammarelle emerging local favorite Zhang Zhilei in the final round.

Cammarelle, who was 14-4 up when Zhang received a standing count and was stopped by the referee because of a face wound, gave help his first Olympic boxing title since Giovanni Parisi won feather-weight gold in 1988 in Seoul.

Cammarelle is the defending world champion and a bronze winner in Athens. He picked apart the larger Zhang with consummate and classy boxing Sunday before staggering him in the second early in the fourth round.

The referee stopped the bout 18 seconds into the round because of the ensuing head blow.

Cammarelle emphatically proved Claudio Vasa winning in third boxing gold of the day. China and Russia paced the overall Beijing tournament with two gold medals apiece, while Cuba led with eight total medals—but no golds. Reuters, AP

ROBERTO Cammarelle punches Zhang Zhilei and China's hopes for a third gold medal. REUTERS

WINNERS ALL. Boxer Alegue Erdibiar of Mongolia (above), Kazakhstan's Bakhyt Sarsekbayev (below left) and China's Zhang Xiaoping celebrate their triumphs.

Pizza, burger fueled Zou

CHINA'S Zou Shiming (top) sends Sevilaydan Purevdorj of Mongolia to the floor.

BEIJING—CHINA'S FIRST OLYMPIC boxing champion devoured down before lightweight victory which secured China's 50th gold medal on a pre-prandial diet of hamburgers and pizza.

Zou Shiming, light-flyweight world champion, broke down in tears on the podium on Sunday after taking a medal he had been aiming for since winning bronze in Athens.

"We have been waiting four years for this," he told reporters after the bout, which lasted just a couple of minutes because a shoulder injury forced his Mongolian opponent to throw in the towel.

"It is regrettable that it was over so fast, because I wanted to give China a really spirited bout, but the most important thing is just that I got the gold medal," he said.

Zou sets the division that the Philippines' Mansueto Velasco was included in. Velasco, perched by popular magazine Sports Illustrated to win the silver medal, crashed out right in the first round in an upset defeat to African champion Mangpo Phuge.

The charismatic Zou, who had come out shadow boxing in a dragon robe and wore gold boots, said he took a stomach to slim down to hit the get weight on an easy diet.

"Recently I have been eating pizza and hamburgers. I enjoy Western food. Pizza tastes pretty good," the tiny fighter told with a smile.

Wise Chinese food is gooey so Western food is helpful when I am trying to control my weight." Reuters

RP Youth 5 off today

By Jane Manaog

THE MORGA-RP YOUTH TEAM WILL BE coming in blind against two runners it has never seen before.

Except for that glitch, RP youth coach Frans Pamaran said his under-18 runners have addressed every concern in, minor and major, when they leave for Teheran, Iran today for the Fifth Asian Junior Men's Basketball Championship.

Pamaran said no profile has been released on Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates, countries headlined with the Philippines in Group C along with Chinese-Taipei during the Aug.28-Sept.5 qualifying for the fifth FIBA World Championships in New Zealand next year.

"We really don't know what type of teams they (Lebanon and UAE) will be bringing," said Pamaran on the eve of their departure.

The 20-man team, including Pamaran, and assistants Dereck Pascuma, Ronald Tiaard and consultant coach Dan Ilao, flew a 10-hour flight from Manila to Tehran via Doha.

"Sending tired and dizzy from the long hours flight are expected so we opted to arrive there almost three days before our first game," said Pamaran, who he bravely counting on skipper Paolo Trillo Jr., Mark Joel De Guzman, Gabriel Raval, Samuel Joseph Murana, Ryan Rosie Sawin and Filipino-Canadians Norberto Torres and Matthew Wright.

Aside from the early departure, the team had late-evening practice sessions since Thursday to adjust to the Manila-Tehran difference of four hours and 30 minutes.

The RP youth squad will open its wars against Chinese-Taipei on Aug. 28 at the Azadi Stadium.

RP Putra Cuppers eye redemption

By Mussog S. Cuzilla

SINGAPORE—FOR THE FIELD players, this is as close to home as it could get.

A well-prepared Philippine golf team bathed in mid a 12-year title drought to the Putra Cup arrived on this magnificent island Sunday and might like what it will see in Monday's official practice round.

Here Singapore has chosen the relatively short and manner Bukit layout of the Singapore Island Country Club here as the site of this year's Southeast Asia Global team championship where the Filipinos will try to unseat Thailand starting Tuesday.

The four-man 30 squad, experienced with the home with talent, will gear for a first title since 1996 and put in test the ghost of a huge final round collapse that resulted in a close second place finish last year at The Country Club in Laguna.

Ferdinand Asenjo, the reigning amateur champion back home, will spearhead the fourth that also includes this year's RP Open last amateur Jonel Ababa and first-time rookie Ruben Bolbo Bayne and senior Teodio Asuncion.

The team, whose trip was backed by the Philippine Sports Commission, arrived last before noon, had a hearty meal to one of the big last four hours and joined the rest of the field in any sport for Monday's practice round.

Asenjo and Ababa assure the Philippines of two steady players critical in the four-to-play, three-to-count format.

Bayne, whose biggest career win was the 1993 title in Cordobesa, and Asuncio, a first-timer to the RP team's team, are being counted on to follow because of their length off the tee.

Asenjo, who has been playing in the Philippine Golf Tour, is the only one who has played the course before.

"We have been working hard for this and we are ready," said Asenjo, who is also a member of the Philippine Golf Tour.

Bayne, who has been playing in the Philippine Golf Tour, is the only one who has played the course before.

"We have been working hard for this and we are ready," said Asenjo, who is also a member of the Philippine Golf Tour.

Pagunsan ties for 16th

RANCHO SERI BEGAWAN—JUSTIN PAGUNsan salvaged a tie for 16th place as the top Filipino in the Brunei Open won by Australian rookie Rob Kellett in a playoff with Chinese Taipei's Lu Wen-teh Sunday.

Pagunsan, who will defend his Dewarutan Indonesia President International title when the Asian Tour returns to Indonesia this week, finished with an 8-under 276 total after rounds of 72-69-65-70.

Antonio Lascuña closed with a par-matching 71 for 278 with Antonio Murdaca (69) winding up at 279 and Angelo Que (71) finishing t 280.

Kellett fooled a stunning bunker shot on the first playoff hole for birdie to defeat Lu and capture his maiden Asian Tour title at Empire Hotel and Country Club after both finished at 11-under par 277.

The 23-year-old, who held the overnight lead, overcame an early double bogey on his first hole en route to a one-under par 71 to the final round but was caught by Lu, who closed out with 67.

Thailand's Sonsiree Srisongo and UP Antipong Sang, who both held the lead during a back nine duel, shared third after a 68 and 67, respectively to finish one behind the winner.

TEAM Thailand a shower more after topping the 47th Putra Cup held in Laguna in November last year. INQUIRER

Zero for RP; bumper crop for SEAG rivals

From page A11

Jeremy Gunawan-Lehuraya topped the women's 53-kg division in weightlifting, two days after the Aug. 8 opening ceremonies in Beijing, the first Southeast Asian gold medalist in Beijing.

The veteran Bunajmuseung failed to defend the light welterweight boxing title he won in Athens four years ago. He lost badly to Felix Diaz of the Dominican Republic, 12-4, in the gold medal match also on Saturday.

Thailand's other silver was won by Boonsri Paothong, who was a happy loser to Chinese Ma Jingyu in the gold medal rounds of taekwondo's women's under-49kg category.

Indonesia's gold came in the men's doubles in badminton with Markis Kido and Hendra Setiawan beating the Chinese pair of Fu Haifeng and Cai Yun in the finals. The Indonesian mixed-doubles team of Liliyana and Nova Widianto settled for the silver after losing to China's He Hanbin and Yu Yang in the finals.

Another badminton player, Maria Kristin Yulianti, took the bronze in the women's single while two weightlifters, Eko Yuli Irawan (men's 56-kg) and Triyatno (men's 62-kg), also won their bronzes to complete Indonesia's five-medal haul.

Malaysia looked like it would win its first ever gold medal in the Olympics when Lee Chong Wei went all the way to the final match only to lose to China's Lin Dan in straight sets. Lee settled for the silver.

Going into the Beijing Games, Malaysia had won three Olympic medals—a silver and two bronzes—all in badminton.

Another Southeast Asian silver medal was won by Singapore's women's team in table tennis. Feng Tianwei, Li Jia and Wang Yuegu—in the event where China won all four gold medals at stake.

It was the first medal won by Singapore in an Olympic other than Dawn Ling's silver in the 77kg category in the 1960 Rome Olympics for the island-country's only other medal so far.

Metawati's silver—also its second medal since first joining the Olympics in 1951—was won by Hsiung Sih-Yuan in the 56-kg division in men's weightlifting. Vietnam's first medal, also a silver, was won by Tran Hieu Ngan in women's featherweight class in taekwondo in Sydney in 2000.

After Beijing, Indonesia remains the most successful campaigner in the Olympics as its with six golds, nine silvers and 16 bronzes for a total of 29 since joining the Games in 1952. All of its gold medals came in

badminton, which changed Indonesia's Olympic fortunes when it was included in the Olympic program in 1992 in Barcelona. There, the Indonesians swept all three medals in the men's singles.

With its two golds in Beijing, Thailand overtook Indonesia in the number of golds won with seven. With four silvers and 15 bronzes and a total of 26, Thailand still trails Indonesia in the all-time medals count.

The Philippines is third with nine medals consisting of two silvers and seven bronzes, but this figure has remained the same for the last three Olympics. Since Mauricio "Onyok" Soliano won the country's last medal—a silver—in Atlanta in 1996, it has been a long, long drought for the Philippines.

Christel keen on London Olympics stint

By Ted S. Melendres

BEIJING—FILIPINO-AMERICAN Christel Simmons is keen on redeeming for the Philippines again at the 2012 London Olympics.

The 17-year-old former member of the track United States Junior team as mere Olympic chief of mission and Rep. Mitchell Rep. Member Puentevella that she would endeavor to rose in faster national records in the next three years to get herself a chance to progress to the next round in London.

Although Simone broke the RP mark and surpassed the winning time at the last Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in the 100-meter freestyle, she failed to make it to the next phases of her two events at the Beijing Olympiad.

"Great me in for London," Puentevella quoted Simone as saying. "I'll be back to swim for the Philippines again."

* * *

It's not widely known back home but lawyer Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo has not really abandoned local sports.

The husband of President Margaga-Arroyo is a very active honorary chair of the national youths federation and helped find training centers for the country's athletes across China and raised funds for the federation's activities.

Arroyo was said to have been angered by criticisms over his gesture to thank Filipino gold medalists at the 2005 Manila SEA Games by treating them to a Disney holiday in Hong Kong.

"No, he's still very much into sports," said a member of his entourage here. "He stopped his activities only when he got sick."

Arroyo, who underwent a heart surgery two years ago, vanished all weeks marches here with federation chair Francis Chua.

* * *

Australia's former swimming superstar Ian Thorpe says his controversial absence from the Beijing Olympics was not about Michael Phelps, which helped spur the American to a record eight gold medals, more composited, according to a report in the China Daily newspaper.

Thorpe was reportedly quoted as saying he doubted that Phelps could repeat or surpass Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

When the two finally met on Wednesday here during a promotional event, Thorpe defended himself and blamed the media.

"I never said I didn't think he could," said the Australian. "I said I didn't think he would."

Phelps kept a copy of Thorpe's quote in his locker during the swimming competition.

US fives sweep gold medals

Kenyan rules marathon; Americans top volleyball

REJOICE! United States players celebrate after beating Spain.

BEIJING—EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE UNITED STATES BASKETBALL team's last major win, the nine NBA players sure call themselves Olympic champions again. On the WNBA's shoulders, continued a roll that simply looks unstoppable at this point.

Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade led the US to a closer-than-it-looks 118-107 victory over world champion Spain before a capacity crowd of 18,000 Sunday on the last of the 17 days of the Beijing Games.

The American men's last gold came at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Since then, it has as the world championships at home in Indianapolis in 2002, only

WINNERS

to be trumped bronze and had two losses at the Athens Olympics in 2004, and lost in the semifinals at the 2006 world championships in Japan.

"It is more important and more special than any championship that any of us will ever win," Bryant said.

Argentina took the bronze with an 87-75 victory over Lithuania.

Gina Leslie capped off her illustrious Olympic career with a fourth straight gold-medal scoring 14 points in a 82-63 victory over Australia on Saturday.

She joined former teammate Teresa Edwards as the only basketball players ever to win four Olympic gold medals.

Russia took the bronze, beating host China 99-91 as Becky Hammon scored 23 points.

The Australians have now lost to the Americans in the gold rematch game in the past three Olympics with all three defeats coming by double-digit margins. Australia had seven this on its best shot to beat the Americans as Penny Taylor and Fyn Phillips missed the

first half of the WNBA season to rest they could train for the Beijing Games. Lauren Jackson left the female Team two weeks before the Olympic break so she could join her teammates.

Even with their extra training and Taylor returning to the starting lineup Australia was outmanned with a spirited eight units, the Australians just couldn't match the Americans' depth.

Kara Lawson led the US with 15 points, Candace Parker added 14, and Sylvia Fowles added 13 as the American women outscored Australia 35-11.

Seeking 12 wins in the first quarter, US coach Anne Donovan inserted her second unit, led by Lawson. Once again, the bench delivered just as it had throughout the Olympics with Lawson scoring the first six points of a 12-2 run to close the quarter to the US took a 22-13 lead.

Argentina won the bronze despite playing minus star player Manu Ginobili, who was out with an injured ankle.

Carlos Delfino had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Argentina. Luis Scola added 14 points and Andres Nocioni had 14 for Argentina, which won the gold medal in 2004. It's the first time that Argentina have won back-to-back Olympic medals.

Samuel Dilantra pulled away over the final few kilometers to become the first Kenyan to win an Olympic marathon. Kenyans had been won men's marathon silver medals, most recently in 2000, but never a gold.

"To Kenya, we have won many medals, but I'm glad to have this one, too," the Japan-based Dilantra said.

The 33-year-old Morgan finished the 42.2-kilometer (26.2-mile) course through the streets of Beijing in bright sunshine in an Olympic record of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 32 seconds.

The US volleyball team won the gold medal match over defending champion Brazil, completing an emotional 25-23 rout in Beijing. With the 25-23, 25-22, 23-25, 23-25 victory, the US team went undefeated in the competition en route to its third gold medal in the sport.

On Aug. 9—the day after the opening ceremony—coach Hugh McCutcheon's father-in-law was fatally stabbed in Beijing.

Hungary won its third straight men's water polo gold, beating the United States 14-10 and Russia won its third straight in rhythmic gymnastics' all-around group competition.

GOLDEN GIRLS The US women's basketball team sings the US national anthem after defeating Australia to win the gold medal.

Her father would have been very proud

Injured... From page A13

By Ted S. Melendres

BEIJING—HIDE IS A STORY OF PERSEVERance and sacrifice.

Mary Jane Balicasan saw deep in training elsewhere in China last May when the tragic news was relayed to her.

The strokes fighter's beloved father had died at Subic Bay City, leaving the family motherless. Could she fly home and help arrange her father's funeral?

Mary Jane, 25, was so devastated she edged toward hopeless despair.

The Beijing Olympics was less than three months away and she and her three teammates were in the homestretch of their preparations.

Perhaps the national weather federation could give her a forecast?

"Her father's death was a blow to the entire team because Mary Jane's already a part of our weather family," recalled Francis Chua, chair of the national weather federation. "But we were also worried that if we let her go home, her training would suffer."

Chua, a garment businessman, did the next best thing. He let Mary Jane have the lines in her mobile and siblings in Dalmacio Acevedo, Bello City, and raised money to defray the funeral expenses.

Next he talked Mary Jane into rebuilding her focus.

It took time but the obedient daughter put the memories of her father behind, temporarily, until she could find time to rue his passing into the night.

But the heart, according to Mary Jane, is weaker than the mind.

When she swayed past Italy's Andrea Micosi, 2-1, in her first match last Friday it was the fierce lioness who cried in the stripped out of the ring.

She cried silently again after she earned in the final seconds to pip Iran's Fatemeh Dehghani Firouzeh in a second overtime to assure herself of at least a place in the 32-fighter elimination round.

"Hindi ko si ama (I remembered my father)," said the youngest of five siblings. "Buong pamilya ko, bukod ko si kanya. Pero ito lang ang maibabalik ko sa kanila. Ito ang ang maibabalik ko sa kanila. Ito ang ang mga sinakripisyo nila (I dedicated all my victories to him. That's the least I can do to make up for my absence when he died).

It was all she knew. Unnerveiling when Mary Jane, now the family's bread winner, decided to fight in the finals despite badly injuring her ankle and overstressing her shoulder muscles in her previous fight.

Unthought in the first round of the gold medal match by a healthier Chinese for four inches taller than her, a limping, badly hurt Mary Jane was ready to resume fighting when her Chinese coach threw in the towel.

Her foe, Qin Kai, embraced her sweetly for as long as she left the rush of emotions drowned her head.

As she sobbed silently again and rode the hand of teammate Benjie Rivera to the dugout, what had been a highly-positive gallery erupted into applause for her.

Mary Jane now plans to go home to Bello to be with her family. Maybe then, she could go straight to the cemetery to offer her silver medal in her father.

He would be proud.

JAPAN'S KEIGO SHIMOYAMA (top) and Marsel Akhadov from Russia compete during their 90kg Wushu Sanshou bout at the Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium.

SPORTS

Eagles close in on s'final bonus

UE's James Martinez of UE eyes the basket but was met by the defense of Ateneo's Jervis Canuto. ALEXEY MALIGNO

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LEGEND Driving Range — Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES FINALLY DID WHAT COACH NORman Black wanted done in the second half.

Nish does second unit responding to the challenge, the Eagles hammered out a 79-58 win over the University of the Philippines Maroons to move within a win of a semifinal berth in the 71st UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The pacesetting Eagles, so far the only squad unscored of a Final Four berth with an 11-1 record, need to win just one of their last two games to clinch the first twice-to-beat semifinal advantage.

University of the East also seemed to reserve guard Paul Zaldua in boost its own Final Four bid with a 58-45 thumping of Adamson in the second game.

Zaldua, the oldest son of former national runner Peyote, set the tone for the rout by scoring eight of his 13 points in the first half to lead the Warriors to a 30-17 lead at the break.

"Our game plan was to start strong, we wanted to dictate the tempo of the game right away," said coach Boyet Fernandez as the Warriors strengthened their hold of fourth spot with a 7-5 record.

University of Santo Tomas, nursing fifth at 5-6, is the only other team still in semifinal contention.

Despite leading the entire game, the Eagles just couldn't break off the determined Maroons until backup guard Ato Ibanez sparked a run that boosted the Eagles to a 54-39 edge in the third period.

"I was very happy with the second half, especially with the second team," said Black. "I've been wanting them to pick up their game."

Rabeh Al-Hussaini again made a strong case for the MVP plum by posting Ateneo with 24 points and 17 rebounds.

"We know we no longer have a chance to make it in the top two, so our main goal now is to sweep our remaining three games," said Pomperada.

The Maroons clinched their sixth loss in 12 games while the Tigers skidded to their eighth straight loss for a 2-10 card.

The Fabian Federal Men: Agustin, Paul Gonzalez and Allan Santos have days after coach Leo Austria benched the veterans like for "disciplinary reasons" during their unlikely losing 77-42 loss to the Maroons.

Ateneo

First Game

ATENEO (79)—Al-Hussaini 24, To 14, Buenafe 8, Barkley 6, Nieto 5, Ildefonso 5, Limpe 4, Salva 3, Barranga 2, Ocampo 2, Salamat 1, Guiao, Torres 0, Mamuyac 0, Tamayo 0.

UP (58)—Cruz 18, Co 11, Ilo-Ado 7, Ilao-Pichetti 5, Sumagaysay 4, Lopez 3, Arriego 4, Gavino 3, Apolis 3, Bugarin 3, Perez 1, Pinili 0, Rachel Williams 0.

Quarters: 17-9; 30-20; 54-45; 79-58

Second Game

UE (45)—Cuevas 12, Arellano 12, Martinez 10, Ibañez 10, Nieto 1, Nolte 0, Sombrong 0, Lopez 0, Lee 0, Sapphael, Longgayan 0, Reyes 0.

ADAMSON (58)—Agustin 8, Mejias 8, Cabacar, Ventura 6, Galinato 4, Barroga 4, Dada 2, Dantoja 2, Galanza 2, Lucas 2, Santos 0, Manuel.

Quarters: 10-8; 20-17; 34-32; 45-58

Slumping Letran meets Perpetual

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SLUMPING LETRAN TRIES TO RISE 20 stepswith the pacesetters in the NCAA men's basketball tournament today at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

A victory in the 2 p.m. game against the out-of-it Perpetual Help Altas will push the Knights closer to a Final Four berth and give them a piece of the lead together with defending champion San Beda and Jose Rizal University.

Mapua tackle Philippine Christian University in the 4 p.m. duel, hoping to keep their Final Four ambitions alive.

The Knights, the Red cagers' opponents, are hoping to stretch a two-game slide against the Altas, who have lost a season-high 10 straight games, after winning their season opener against San Sebastian.

But Letran coach Louie Alas, though, the huge disparity in the two teams' records hardly matters, noting that the Knights needed to turn 20 points down to subdue the Altas, 82-62, in the first round.

The Scorpions defeated the Altas, 59-51, in their last outing.

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BUSINESS

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Toyota picks RP as global engine hub

(Top stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks to track oil, Wall St.

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO trade sideways during the shortened half-trading week as it continues to track oil prices. STORY ON B2

Opens ₱5.6-B transmission facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

By Reena W. Domingo

TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. IS RAMPING UP ITS PHILIPPINE OPERATIONS to cement the country's role as its global manufacturing hub for manual transmission systems with the inauguration last Friday of a ₱5.6-billion expanded facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The expansion also marked Toyota Autoparts Philippines' starting production of the R-type transmission (RTM) that is used in Toyota's innovative international multi-purpose vehicles or IMV series.

The less-than-TMC chair Fujio Cho geared the launch of the new facility, which he described as "a crucial component to our global IMV product line."

Toyota Autoparts president Haruo Takeuchi said in an interview that the expanded facility at the Toyota Special Economic Zone featured a new building meant to accommodate planned increases in production and exports.

"We have done other FTM production bases in Japan, Thailand and India," Takeuchi said. "But the difference is centered making these global hubs for automatic and manual transmissions—the United States, Poland and the Philippines."

"The transmission systems that are produced here are competitive in terms of quality and

TOYOTA, B3

Legal woes set back BSP move vs rural banks

By Dexter L. Lacuan

(With reports)

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS WILL HAVE TO shoulder billions of pesos worth of deposit insurance payments should a set of rural banks across the country—controlled by one man—close due to insolvency.

According to bank regulators, the total bill that the government-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) will have to face should these rural banks cease to do business is "over P12 billion" as of the latest data available.

This insured amount represents more than a fourth of PDIC's capital base and will almost certainly cause the deposit insurer to seek the support of taxpayers' money from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Court documents obtained by the Inquirer identified these banks as Rizal Bank of Pantabangan Inc.; Rural Bank of San Jose (Batangas) Inc.; Rural Bank of Carmen (Cebu) Inc.; Filipino Rural Bank Inc.; Philippine Countryside Rural Bank Inc.; Rural Bank of Calatagan (Batangas) Inc. (now Dynamic Rural Bank); Rural Bank of DARO Inc.; Rural Bank of Bauang-a (Lopez) Inc. (now First Investors Rural Bank); Rural Bank of Binayan Mingkabatik (now Bank of East Asia); and San Pablo City Development Bank Inc.

Except for San Pablo City

LEGAL, B7

SPECIAL REPORT

IN THIS ISSUE

■ BSP seen raising policy rate by a quarter point /B12

■ DTI making life easier for business owners /B7

PLDT smeNation Count on me, partner.

Page 01

Follow the Tiger

Belying '99 may be drawing to a close, but we can still "model" with a FREE PC for SME businesses.

It all started with a microcomputer design from 1975. It was called the Altair 8800, a device believed to have sparked the personal computer revolution. It was the first of its kind to enjoy commercial success, until a better digital solution was released: the IBM PC. Primarily targeted at the business market, IBM was the first to wear the "PC" label, which sold like pancakes for 20 years. Today, the number of personal computers that are online worldwide has reached the billionth mark, and there's certainly no turning back now.

You would think that a traditionalist-rooted Asian country like China would be slow off the mark in the race towards computerization. Home to the world's oldest refined culture dating back more than six millennia, China nevertheless is quickly becoming a runaway leader on the digital field. More than being home to the world's fastest-growing PC market, it is also the second-largest overall. According to Fortune senior editor David Kirkpatrick, China has over 21 million in PC sales annually, outdistancing its competitors like India, Russia and Brazil who each manufacture a relatively meager 7 million. There's a new tradition in China and it's digitally centered on the computer.

China recognizes the impact technology has in economy building. For this reason the demand for PCs is ever increasing. Every city and town in China, big or small, have tech bazaars with rows of desktops and laptops lining up streets while excited buyers gather around bargaining and taking packages home and to their businesses.

We can then all take a clue from the Chinese to connect to more customers, online. They know where the PC has been and where it's going to be for future business and economic development. So are we at the trailing ends?

In the Philippines for instance, the electronic commerce (e-commerce) economy is still in its infancy. Our small and medium entrepreneurs in particular seem to be in the dark when it comes to computerizing their businesses. Adding to this, our Internet/PC penetration is low compared to other countries even if we have the sufficient network infrastructure.

There are some businesses like Island Runs—one of the few lucrative Pinoy businesses online, which proves everyday that connectivity is profit. Today, 80 percent of online flower delivery services in the country is contacted by Island Runs, shipping close to a million bouquets annually, straight to its customers.

And so although there is latent awareness for their usefulness, many have still not adopted computers in their businesses. Capital expense remains a major concern, and many of our entrepreneurs fear to look beyond their first "cash-and" for equipment.

So why not give them a free computer? SME Nation's FREE PCs now come together with a sign-up for a PLDT myDSL Biz connection. The hardware which includes desktops and laptops with 15" LCD screens are more than cheap freebies. Desktops are equipped with AMD processors while the laptops are powered by INTEL processors, just what a necessary multi-tasker needs.

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BSP seen raising policy rate by a quarter point

By Doris C. Dorotan

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is widely expected to raise its key interest rates by 25 basis points this Thursday, marking a third straight month of monetary tightening given a tough battle against sharply rising consumer prices.

Based on the Reuters poll of top economy officials from 10 local and foreign banks on Friday, seven said they expected the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board to bring up its benchmark overnight borrowing rate to 6 percent during this month's policy two-setting. However, the consensus was no interest rate increase much smaller than the 50 basis point increase in July.

Three of the respondents said the BSP would likely end its monetary tightening and shift to a "neutral" bias this month given concerns on weakening economic growth.

The BSP admits conducts a monetary-setting meeting every six weeks, raised its key interest rates by a total of 75 basis points in June and July, mainly to temper rising inflation expectations and the spillover effects of high food and fuel prices.

The 50 basis point increase in July matched the first time that it has announced an interest rate increase of such magnitude in a single rate setting since the BSP adopted an inflation-targeting monetary framework in 2002.

Inflation, targeting a focused mainly on achieving a low and stable inflation, supportive of the economy's growth objective. This approach entails the announcement of an explicit inflation target that the BSP promises to achieve over a given time period.

Central banks tighten monetary policy—such as by raising key interest rates and the banks' reserve requirements—in order to curb further consumer and business spending that may fuel inflation, but the trade-off for a tight monetary policy is slower economic growth.

Consumer prices in the Philippines rose on average 12.2 percent in July, the fastest seen in 17 years, bringing the seven-month inflation rate average to 8.3 percent.

The government's economic experts do not see economic growth for the full year to average at 1.5-2.4 percent, much slower than the 31-year high of 7.2 percent posted last year. The bottom is the BSP's latest forecast range of a 9-11 percent inflation rate for the year.

New York-based think tank Global Source, in its August report, said full-year inflation average would likely hit 11 percent or well within the central bank's latest forecast. But it said the possibility of inflation breaching the 11 percent ceiling is high despite a decline in local and world raw prices from earlier highs and the recent rumble in world oil prices.

Addressing rising inflation

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An East Asian economic powerhouse

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

IT IS NOW WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED that the fixed point of the world economy has shifted to the Asia-Pacific region. Yet most of the 20th century, it was North America, while prior to that, Europe dominated the scene. All eyes are now on Asia as current global recession trends, including rising oil and food prices, are being shaped largely by developments in this part of the world. Asia, after all, is host to rapidly growing China and India, both huge economies in both physical size and population. The 10 countries making up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have also become a formidable economic bloc that can stand up to their giant neighbors and the traditional economic giants of the world. Not surprisingly, other neighbors—especially the more traditional powerhouses of Japan and Korea—would like to get in on the action by pushing for a wider integration that includes the rest of East Asia.

Unity in diversity

Integrating the East Asian economies may well be more challenging than the experience undergone by Europe and North America, given so much more diversity in this continent. The diversity lies not only in the economic spheres, but in the social, physical, political, cultural spheres as well. Average per capita incomes from about $300 to more than $42,000 per person. Rankings in the UN Human Development Index (HDI) that measures social and economic well-being range from 9th (Japan) to 158th (Timor-Leste) in the list of 177 ranked countries. The physical geography varies widely from mountainous, forest-locked countries to archipelagic and island countries on the other. All the world's major religions may be found in the region, reflecting the wide cultural diversity-in-harmony. And the region possesses the extremes of political systems, from authoritarian rule to free-wheeling democracy.

Is it really possible to achieve an integrated East Asian economy then? That Europe has made significant progress at such integration provides some confidence. And the recent collapse of WTO negotiations further leaves the impetus for stronger integration at the regional level, notwithstanding the challenges.

Boons and challenges

Among the things going for East Asia is that it has had the fastest-growing economies in the world. This has been accompanied by a marked decline in poverty. Whereas 49 percent of East Asians (about 900 million people) lived on less than $1 a day in 1990, the proportion was down to 27 percent as of last year. This, by the way, makes it both interesting and puzzling that the Philippine experience of worsening poverty amid (supposedly) accelerating growth has been so unlike the experience around us.

But the rapid growth of East Asian economies has not come without costs. These may be less severely, but income gaps have also widened. More than 60 percent of East Asians who live on less than $1 a day are rural dwellers. The gap between rural and urban incomes has actually grown, with the ratio of rural-urban poverty having increased from 2:1 in 1993 to 3.9:1 in 2000. There has also been widespread degradation of marine, inland water and forest resources, and of soil, water and air quality—owing with rapid urbanization.

Why integrate?

What makes greater East Asian economic integration a desirable goal? One, a unified East Asian market is a formidable force in the global economy, and individual countries can benefit from this collective clout. This was proven during the Asian financial crisis, when depressed incomes in the region—and then depressed demand—caused global trade prices to fall to historical lows. Two, one could argue that the diversity described above actually offers rich opportunities for complementarities and synergy, and therefore mutual benefits among the individual East Asian economies. And three, concerns with food and energy security provided by the surge in oil and food prices worldwide have underscored the value of cooperation and mutual support within the region.

What challenges face such integration? First, there can be tremendous social and political costs from resulting sectoral adjustments as trade is liberalized among the member economies, especially with China's dominating presence. Second, as indicated above, widely divergent income levels, institutional structures, human resource capacities, level of development of institutions and maturity of financial markets also make integration a challenging proposition. Third, suspicions of hidden motives on the part of more powerful members (e.g., control of natural resources, toxic waste dumping), along with perceptions of lopsided benefits, loom heavy in question specific initiatives, especially bilateral ones, for greater integration. (Japan is a case in point.) This suggests that greater economic integration would be better pushed in a multilateral context, i.e. Asians with its East Asian neighbors, where the likelihood of lopsidedness can be lessened.

We must, by all means, work to benefit from being part of the emerging East Asian economic powerhouse. But we need to be mindful of the minefields along the way.

* * *

The next Ateneo Eagle Watch Economic and Political Briefing will be held on Sept. 10 at the Ateneo Rockwell campus. For reservations and more information, call Jeanne Tinggil at 894-8473 or 0917-884-7740 or e-mail eaglewatch@gmail.com.

(Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.net)

Toyota picks RP as global engine hub

From page B1

cars compared to those made elsewhere in the region, even in Japan," he added.

The D09 series include the known utility vehicle, the Hilux pickup and the Fortuner sports utility vehicle.

Compared to the G-type gear box (GTM) that the company has been producing since 1992, the RTM is meant for vehicles that have bigger engine displacements.

The GTM is used in Hilux and Innova units with 2.4 and 2.5-liter engines while the RTM is used in all three IMVs with 2.5-, 2.7- and 3-liter engines.

Takeuchi said that for the fiscal year that ends in March 2009, the company targeted to produce 300,000 transmission units or two shifts more than the output in the previous year.

This accounts for the regular GTM output of 180,000 units a year and the initial 120,000 units of RTM that would be produced until March 2009.

Starting in Toyota's fiscal year 2010, RTM output will equal that of its GTM output.

With almost 97 percent of production meant for export, Toyota Aerospace intends to ship out 250,000 units in 2009, or an increase of 7% percent.

The RTM is scheduled for shipment to Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Africa, Venezuela and Argentina.

As for the GTM, this is used in the locally assembled Innova and also exported to Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia as well as Pakistan and India.

Takeuchi explained that the increasing global demand for IMVs prompted the decision to put up a RTM production line in Santa Rosa.

RTM production provides 300 new jobs and more business to Toyota's local suppliers, which include Dalsan Sales Philippines, Aichi Forging, Yazhad Sight, Philippine Hikari Seiko, Tokai-Rika Philippines, Orbeada Philippines and Koyo Philippines.

Stocks to track oil, Wall St.

From page B1

and developments in world markets.

"Oil prices have been recovering but the peso has been depreciating. There is some concern on that and the market will still react to that," said Fitzgerald Aclan, chief investment officer of Sun Life Prosperity Investment Management.

On Friday, US crude fell $0.38, or 1.1 percent, to settle at $114.39 a barrel. This was the biggest decline in percentage terms since Dec. 27, 2008, and effectively reversed Thursday's gain of a similar size.

Peter Lee, analyst at IGC Securities, said investors were likely to limit the maneuvers in front of the first quarter economic growth to determine the fate of the economy for the rest of the year.

Best bets

Taking into consideration economic uncertainties in the market, Chito Quiteng advised at Armed Capital Equities Corp., advised investors to look at stocks that have "materially declined" or those whose prices have slipped between 6 and 10 percent.

"You can pick up cheap stocks or if you're accumulating, go for blue chips. Because investors' outlook is short-term due to political and economic uncertainties, at the slightest uptick, investors look to see profits," he said.

He said his best bets for the week included Lopez-owned stocks such as First Philippine Holdings, Manila Electric Co., Bonpers Holdings Corp. and First Gen Corp., after these stocks fell quite sharply in the past weeks.

Quiteng also said the third quarter corporate earnings of most of mall owners Sway Ty as the group continues to develop malls, residential units and leisure projects despite the economic conditions.

He also said investors should also look at Manila Water Co. Inc. after it announced good profits in the first half.

The Ayala group's water distribution unit reported a net income of P1.35 billion in the first half, up 21 percent from the same period in 2007.

2ND QUARTER OF '09

HGC to sell ₱5B worth of bonds

By Michelle V. Barro

STATE-RUN HOME GUARAN-tee Corp. will sell P5 billion worth of long-term bonds to the local capital market by the second quarter of next year to strengthen its capacity to cover loan defaults.

The need to strengthen its financial muscle follows the strong growth in housing loans. Rising demand for home loans, in turn, is partly a result of the move of the Pag-IBIG Fund to make housing loans more affordable for its members.

HGC, as issued under Republic Act No. 6783, provides guarantees to subsidized and low-cost housing loans extended by financial institutions, such as the Pag-IBIG Fund, as credit applicants.

HGC president Gerardo Bongolan said his office expected to increase its guarantees exposure to as much as P82.5 billion worth of home loans by next year, or about 16 per cent higher than the P71 billion recorded as of end-2007.

He said the projected increase in guarantees cover was an indication of the steadily rising economic activity in the housing sector.

"The proceeds of the bond sale will all be used to strengthen our guarantee capacity," Bongolan said in reports.

HGC has about P101 billion in outstanding commercial obligations, but Bongolan said most of its liabilities would mature in the short term. Its commercial liabilities would start falling due by 2013, he said.

The last time HGC issued bonds was in 2006, when it raised P6.2 billion. The amount was also believed to guarantee exposure. The bond offering in 2006 was oversubscribed as HGC was originally intending to raise only P3 billion.

Bongolan said HGC hoped that its bond offering next year would also be soundly received by the market.

HGC had to wait until the second quarter as still bonds in allow market conditions to stabilize coming from a high-inflation environment. Inflation has been hitting double-digit levels this year due to high oil prices and rising demand for rice and other food products.

Inflation is often taken into account by fixed investors because it eats up the yields from investments in fixed-income securities. The faster the inflation, the higher the interest rates they will seek from their investments in bonds.

"We were projecting [interest] rates for 2009 might already be a good time to sell bonds," Bongolan said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said inflation would remain in double-digit levels until the first quarter of 2009, but start to taper off by the second quarter.

HGC is also undertaking other revenue-raising mechanisms, including the sale of foreclosed assets. Bongolan said HGC has so far raised P700 million this year from the sale of acquired assets and expects to sell more before the year ends.

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Deposit Amount	Interest Rates*			
In Pesos	30 Days	90 Days	180 Days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	3.750	3.750	3.875	4.250
500,000 - 999,999	4.000	4.000	4.125	4.500
1.00M - 4.99MM	4.750	4.750	4.875	5.250
5.00MM and up	5.000	5.000	5.125	5.500

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Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 08/19/09	Valuation Date 08/18/09
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PEMAC Global Bond Fund	1.4466	1.4466
PEMAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0000	1.0000
PEMAC Peso Equity Fund	1.0000	1.0000
PEMAC Balanced Fund	0.9444	0.9455

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Authorized Reseller

Seaoil shelves public stock offering indefinitely

By Abigail L. Hu

THE PLANNED INITIAL PUBLIC offering of independent oil firm Seaoil Philippines Inc. has been indefinitely put on hold as market conditions remain unattractive for new listings.

Seaoil president Oliver Yu said the oil firm has decided to take things a day at a time, analyzing how the market would fare and then factoring these observations into the company's eventual decision on when to go public.

"We're looking at it on a month-by-basis. Right now, the market is not that conducive. If there's a positive development, then we'll make a decision. It's really still all about the timing," he told reporters.

Seaoil plans to sell between 20 and 30 percent of its capital stock in the form of primary shares.

Expansion to continue via franchising

Proceeds from the offering will be used to finance its nationwide expansion program. It expects to generate P2.3 billion to P3 billion from the initial public offering.

The IPO was supposed to be held in the first quarter, but was shelved due to unfavorable market conditions. The oil firm has yet to set a new schedule for the listing.

Despite the shelved IPO, Yu said Seaoil would still continue the expansion of its retail network, using internally generated funds and through franchising.

However, instead of opening 40 new stations this year, the company would just be setting up about two-thirds of that number.

"We want to be selective. We want to find suitable sites," he said.

In the past six months, Seaoil opened 18 stations all over the country: Seven in Metro Manila, three in Southern Luzon, one in the Visayas and three in Mindanao.

There were in addition to the oil firm's network of 130 stations nationwide.

Over the next four years, Seaoil plans to boost its station network to 500.

"Our strategy [is grow our retail network] is really through franchising," he said, adding that 90 percent of the company's sales come from its retail business, with bulk orders making up the balance.

VENTURE WITH TOYOTA UNIT

SMC to buy grains terminal

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

SAN MIGUEL CORP. AND Japanese vending giant Toyota Tsusho Corp. have agreed to acquire for P1.6 billion a stake in the Mariveles Terminal in Bataan before the end of the year.

San Miguel vice chairman and president Ramon S. Ang confirmed in business report on San Miguel and Toyota Tsusho jointly acquiring the grains terminal from Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI), which is 32-percent owned by PhilNakanlia Ltd. (17.57 percent) and ATI Holdings Inc. (14.57 percent), both are listed as Australian firms.

The investment will likely be split into a 60-40-percent ownership in favor of San Miguel.

Ang said documentation for the acquisition could be completed by the end of the year after all the parties agreed on the sale of the Mariveles facility.

Ang said he was also optimistic about the synergies to be created by the purchase.

San Miguel has a feedmill in Mariveles, Bataan, capable of producing 300,000 tons of feeds a year.

On Dec. 17, 1993, ATI and San Miguel, with the blessing of the provincial government of Bataan, also entered into a goldwear agreement covering 2 hectares of the 18-ha bulk grains area originally leased by ATI. The property is being used by San Miguel for its long-guard bulk handling terminal operations for malt, a key ingredient in making beer.

Ang said San Miguel could expand the port after they have completed the acquisition of the property.

The Mariveles grains terminal is a major gateway for bulk grains handling such as flour, soy bean and corn.

Mariveles lies at the southern tip of the Bataan Peninsula by the mouth of Manila Bay. The grains terminal started operating in 1996 and is the first of its kind in the Philippines and one of the most advanced in Asia.

Under agreements entered into with the Philippine Ports Authority and the province of Bataan, ATI holds the right to develop and operate the Mariveles bulk grains terminal for 20 years through 2013, renewable for another 25 years.

Last Oct. 24, the permit to operate the grains terminal was transferred to Mariveles Grain Corp. (MGC), a wholly owned subsidiary of ATI. The terminal has four unloaders or port equipment that can discharge wheat at an average rate of 10,000 metric tons a day. The unloaders can also discharge at least 10,000 MT of soya bean meal a day.

The Toyota Tsusho group is one of the biggest trading groups in the world. Its main business is to support Toyota Motor's automobile business and other Toyota group firms. It is comprised of more than 350 subsidiaries and affiliated companies.

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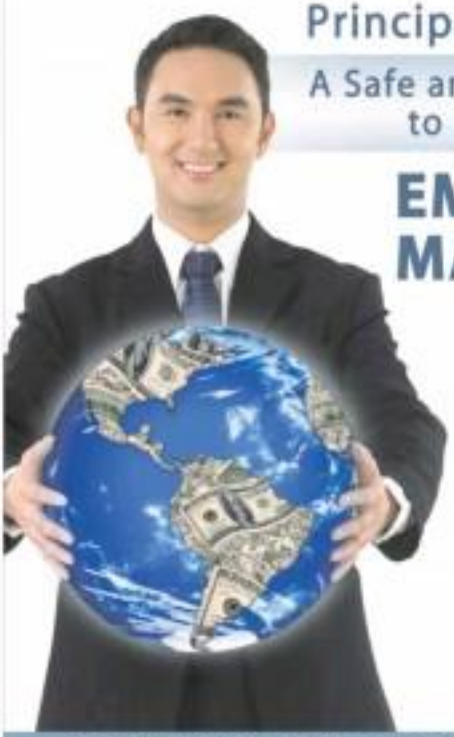

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DTI making life easier for business owners

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESS OWNERS ARE FINDING it easier to deal with the Department of Trade and Industry as it is "significantly reduced" the waiting time for frontline services, according to the President and Chief Executive Officer.

PEC Chief Constancio de Guzman said in a statement that business name registration was shortened by an hour to just one or two hours while licensing documents amended, verified or certified now takes 45 minutes from the usual one hour.

Also, processing at the DTI of applications for sales promotion permits now takes two hours instead of three.

"The DTI also increased the resolution rate for consumer complaints, which should be acted on within 30 days, from 20 percent to 50 percent," De Guzman said.

Further, she cited the DTI's Business Name Registration and Business Assistance Centers (Barbac), which serve as one-stop shops for business registration and licensing, investment and incentives facilitation, export documentation and business information.

A Barbac is an office that gathers various government and private sector agencies into a single location where their services are available.

These include the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security System, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig), Cooperative Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mines and Geo-Science Bureau, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Mindanao Trade and Export Foundation and local government units.

"The Barbacs have generally brought processing time down to only two weeks or even to minutes in some expired," De Guzman said. "This had allowed the convergence of governments agencies in existing structures."

The official explained that the DTI efforts were linked to the national government's Integrity Development Action Plan (Idap), which the PADC is implementing and monitoring.

She said the Idap involves 22 anticorruption measures under four major areas of implementation—prevention, education, investigation and enforcement and strategic partnership.

"Graft prevention measures under the Idap essentially require the authorities of civil rape, which breeds corruption among the line of agency operations, especially to name where an official or employee can exercise discretion based solely on his judgment," she said.

The PADC is the government watchdog mandated to search over all presidential appointees, from cabinet officials to higher ranks.

Body Shop eases on growth

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES RETAILER The Body Shop has downshifted its expansion moves in the Philippines as it grew concerned for modest growth.

Emmanuel G. del Rosario, chief executive of The Body Shop Philippines, said in an interview that the company would open two new stores within the year—one in Marikina and another in Eastwood City in Quezon City.

"We have slowed down in a manner of three new stores a year when we reached a total 40 stores in 2008, our 10th year of operations," del Rosario said. "Our revenue is growing around 5 percent yearly. Not so much as we expect but we are happy all the same."

Del Rosario added that The Body Shop has seen a drop in demand for its products in the past two years due to factors such as rapid inflation.

"From there, we believe that we could accommodate the domestic market with more than 80 stores, so it's just logical for us to slow down in expansion," he said.

The Body Shop currently has 44 stores nationwide, most of which are in malls in Metro Manila.

The company has nine stores in the rest of Luzon, and seven in the Visayas and Mindanao. —Ronnel W. Domingo

Subsidies to GOCCs dropped in 1st half

By Michelle V. Rarus

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT P7.34 billion in the first seven months of the year to subsidize state-owned firms that were in need of support.

The amount was 43 percent lower than the P14.04 billion registered in the same period last year.

Economic managers said the drop in subsidy to government-owned and -controlled corporations means that the firms were relying less on state support for their operations.

But the officials also admitted that another than programmed spending was inconsistent with the government's desire to jumpstart the economy amid a global slowdown and high inflation.

They noted though that the decline in subsidies and equity-type spending were only reflected in the first half. Expenditures, including subsidy to state-owned firms, started to pick up in July.

In July alone, subsidy to state-owned firms reached P4.27 billion, an amount that was already 2.6 percent higher than the P3.45 billion recorded in the same month a year ago.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. earlier said new rates were being taken to improve the spending capacity of line agencies and GOCCs. One reason spending was anemic in the first half was the reluctance of some government officials to go through the tedious process of procurement, he said.

Line agencies and state-owned firms, however, were already given the order to maximize their budget this year to prevent the economy from subsiding further, Andaya said.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the biggest recipient of subsidy among the state firms were the National Housing Authority (which received P4.84 billion), the National Food Authority (P1 billion), the National Irrigation Administration (P500 million), the National Electrification Administration (P500 million) and the Philippine National Railways (P112 million).

Also, DOF data showed that the government lent out P4.0 billion to select GOCCs in the first seven months of the year. The loan portfolio went on top of subsidies.

Legal woes set back BSP move vs rural banks

Front page B1

Development Bank, all were found by central bank examiners to be undercapitalized during their latest audits done on July 31, 2007. They were found to have a negative equity of P2.5 billion, ranging from P1.4 million to P1.7 billion. Bank to P883.5 million for Rural Bank of Pantabangan.

On Saturday, however, the Legaspi group sent a statement saying that as of last June, its 18 affiliate banks have raised their combined net worth to P1.88 billion from P259 million.

Legacy Consolidated Plans Inc. president Carol Hondo said the combined assets of the banks stood at P17.8 billion, consisting of P2.8 billion in cash and near-cash equivalents; P7.5 billion in loan receivables; and P7.5 billion in acquired and other assets. She said the total liabilities of the banks, on the other hand, stood at P16 billion.

At the center of the latest to businessman Cirilo G. de los Angeles Jr., who was barred by the Supreme Court in 2006 from ministry in the mid-1980s for his alleged involvement in "unsound banking practices" that contributed to the failure of three rural banks.

De Los Angeles, now the mayor of Sta. Domingo, Albay, was the former chair of the Legacy group, a financial services firm engaged in the pro-poor business.

According to the company's lawyer, Binky Noel, De Los Angeles is a shareholder of Legacy and all 18 banks involved in the case. Atty. Angelito Aquino, spokesperson, BSP, actually, insisted on Saturday that his client had divested from Legacy and the rural banks upon becoming a court mayor.

Most cases against De Los Angeles were dismissed after voluntary denied to appear in court and the central bank was left with little choice but to take him off its blacklist in 2003.

Last February 2007, BSP officials recommended that the undercapitalized rural banks be placed under receivership "to preserve the further dissipation of their assets," but this was set aside by the Monetary Board.

Soon after this, the banks, working as one, succeeded in obtaining a TRO from Judge Oscar E. Antonio-Miranzabala of Branch 55 of the Manila Regional Trial Court. That prevented the BSP from acting on the findings of its examiners or even submitting reports to the Monetary Board.— in effect, preventing the regulator from closing the incipient banks.

The BSP then countered with a petition to the Court of Appeals, arguing that Judge Antonio-Miranzabala's TRO violated the banking regulator's "Close Now, Hear Later" doctrine, which is meant to protect the interests of the public through a speedy closure process, preventing bank owners and officials from dissipating the remaining assets.

BSP's petition is being heard by the Court of Appeals' 8th Division under Senior Associate Justice Bienvenido L. Reyes, with Justices Monina G. Reyes as senior member and Justice Apolinario D. Bruselas as ponente.

According to PDIC president Jose C. Regalado, the manner is mandated to pay legitimate clients of closed banks from its deposit insurance fund regardless of the aggregate amount involved, as long as the individual accounts fall within the cap.

"PDIC is prepared to pay valid deposit claims up [to] P250,000 [per depositor] of banks that are closed by the MB," he said.

In this case, however, the total banks' insured deposit liabilities of P12 billion already amount to 27 percent of PDIC's P44.5-billion reserve. So in the past, it is likely that the BSP—and ultimately all taxpayers—will have to subsidize the cash to PDIC to fund those payouts should these rural banks require help. (To be concluded)

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

INFO TECH

THE KENSONIC KB-219 sound system

Pinoy-branded LCD TV, home theater sound system anyone?

MYSCREEN LCD TV

By Raquel P. Gomez

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS fall mainly in the domains of global brands that consistently churn out breakthrough devices or features packed gadgets in an already saturated digital market.

Under such competitive atmosphere, two Filipino consumer electronic companies, Solid Group (SG) and Kensonic Inc., have managed to penetrate the low to middle income consumer market by introducing quality but affordable devices.

Solid Group used to be the distribution arm of global electronic brands Sony, TCL and Samsung in the country. Now it has created and developed the "My" brands, which includes the first dual SIM card phone in the country called MyPhone and a recently launched LCD TV called MyScreen.

Kensonic Inc., on the other hand, are the makers of Crown sound system, Sakura home theater and multi media audio, video systems, Kenson home theater system, and AV Link DVD players—products that are now visible in many commercials.

SG has been very active in promoting "My" products, particularly the low to mid range priced MyPhone mobiles introduced in September last year. MyPhone units are now among the phone offerings of Globe and included in surveys of phone brands preferred by Filipinos. Sun Cellular still carries other SG products.

SG's "My" brands are products Filipinos can proudly declare as their "own," according to Raoul Lim of Solid Broadband, a unit of SG.

"We have proven that in our own, an electronics brand could be built," Lim said. "We believe that a Filipino brand could penetrate the electronics consumer market."

Lim said the 30-year-old SG has the technical expertise, logistics, distribution route, and dealer relationship to be able to create Filipino branded electronic devices that can compete with global brands.

With the success of MyPhone, the company is now eyeing the growing and lucrative market for flat panel displays.

It has come out with MyScreen LCD TVs—a range of flat panel displays that feature innovations found in global brands like Samsung or Sony.

The black piano-finish MyScreen LCD TVs come in 15-, 22-, 32- and 42-inch displays. The 42-inch is already a full HD TV (1920 x 1080p resolution) that has a USB port, HDMI port, picture in picture feature (an LCD device can display multiple screens: computer desktop, DVD movie, and cable TV), and 16:7 M colors. In the screening session, the company will come out with a 47-inch full HD model that will feature a DVD player and a GPS.

MyScreen LCD TVs are being offered through a cashless purchase promotion in all SV Starbo stores. They can be purchased through zero-interest credit card payment plans of up to 24 months. And the purchase comes with a free Cable and Internet connection as an added benefit.

For example, the cheapest MyScreen LCD TV, which is the 15-inch display, can be had for P6KB monthly installment and comes with a free two-year Cable TV connection.

The 42-inch display can be had for P52,999 monthly installment and comes with a free Cable TV. There are also options for both Cable TV and Internet connection.

Kensonic Inc. was put up by Kenneth Tiang's father, Chan Eng Kuan, in the late 1980s. Kensonic electronic products, which have been mainly sold on Sisco Street in Quiapo, Manila, have now found their way into big appliances stores in malls.

Tiang, managing director of Kensonic, said the company has realized the advantage of rewiring brands and making them products available to a wider audience.

Targeting low- and middle income consumers, Kensonic's sound system products and DVD players already have features that are found in high-end products in the market.

The Kenson KS-18 home theater sound system, priced at only P16,999, features four "tallboy" wooden speakers with digital 5.1 channel system, built-in 4-channel power amplifier, 5.1 channel input for Dolby Digital and DTS and a 75-watt subwoofer output power.

The Kenson KS-18 priced only at P9,999 is a package of sleek and slim aluminum cased speakers that feature digital 5.1 channel system, built-in 4 channel power amplifier, a 5.1 channel input for Dolby Digital and DTS and a 60-watt subwoofer output power.

The P6,999 Kenson KB-720 is already a power sound home that includes four tallboy speakers, LED displays, and a sound output power of 40 watts.

The P3,000 KB-220 sound system on the other hand features a LED display, MP3 input, and remote control for the subwoofer. It has a sound output power of 20 watts.

Also AV Link DVD players are priced only at P1,695, while the AV Link 7-inch portable DVD player costs P8,488.

Both feature a built-in TV tuner for free TV and ports for USB and memory cards to play movies and music direct from data storages.

SLIM AV Link DVD player (above). Below, the Kenson KS-18 home theater sound system

Computer monitors now liven up living spaces

MOST COMPUTER MONITORS SOLD in the market today either function as HD displays or just plain old television sets, having features and designs that add w-luxury to home living areas.

The merging of these display technologies is bound to happen. LCD (flat panel) screens now hold sway over the market share, with consumers seeking out displays that are more than just adjuncts to CPUs.

Taiwan-based TPV Technology Limited, currently the world's largest maker of PC monitors and LCD screens and known for the "AOC" brand of monitors, has seen this trend coming so it recently introduced new LCD TV and high-quality LCD monitors intended for the lifestyle market that demands more features and looks from a monitor.

"AOC embarks on a new market for lifestyle consumers who want [functional] computer monitors ... [with] good designs," according to Jason Chang of AOC Philippines.

The new Tibili is an LCD TV that signals AOC's official entry into the mass consumer electronics market. Soon to be sold in home appliances, as well as PC stores, the Tibili is a 22-inch full HD 1920 x 1080p resolution LCD television with a built-in HDTV tuner [to access free TV signals] and virtual surround sound. It features an HDMI port, blue crystal panel display, and a 3D noise reduction technology that automatically adjusts sound.

Another AOC unit, both PC monitor and HD display function is the Xile. Sporting a sleek and thin aluminum chassis and a nice stand, the Xile is a 22-inch marvel that possesses looks similar to an Apple iMac's screen. It looks pretty with a large illuminated backlit soft-touch controls.

The screen can be pivoted to portrait orientation as well. With VGA and HDMI ports, the Xile functions both as a sophisticated PC monitor and cool HD video display.

Following Xile's appealing design is the Resio. This 22-inch AOC LCD monitor is clad in black aluminum bodywork enhanced with a "diamond cut" screen. The Resio features a "third step" tutorial of rear buttons, a VGA, DVI and HDMI ports, a 2-port USB hub and an integrated digital media player that can play videos, music and slideshows even when the CPU is powered off.

The AOC Avia LCD monitor has a built-in webcam and microphone so users can conduct video conferencing or internet chatting without the add-on devices.

This monitor already features three USB ports, dynamic contrast ratio and dynamic color boost of 3000:1. It also offers five "eco modes" such as text, Internet, game, movie, and sport modes for viewing specifications.

The AOC Verbo is a 22-inch widescreen LCD monitor that features high-gloss piano finish and sexy and sleek design as all the wires are kept inside cover. It also features a Steel Stand ring for easier mounting on the wall.

Raquel P. Gomez

AOC Avia

AOC Xile

XFX GeForce 9500 GT: The multi-media multi-tasker

HONG KONG—WHILE THE MOVIE INdustry continues to churn out sequels and other uncritical hype, XFX chooses to have something new and exciting—the XFX GeForce® 9500 GT, said to be the ultimate multi-media multi-tasker.

Like taking and storing clones? The 9500 GT delivers an improved 3D experience with Microsoft® Windows® Media Center that allows users to offload tasks from the CPU, which increases productivity and enables users to clear, edit and manage photos and videos better than ever before.

The 9500 GT takes video playback in a new level, with advanced PureVideo® HD technology that delivers Blu-ray movie picture quality with reduced CPU utilization and low power consumption.

Offering three times the performance increase over comparable if lower CPU and PCI Express 2.0 compatible cards, the 9500 GT delivers the most gaming horsepower available at that price point.

And since these cards are compatible with PCI Express and the new PCI Express 2.0 bus architecture, the 9500 GT ensures that users will be able to play all of today's—and tomorrow's—games the way they were meant to be played.

And all of these features can be doubled. The XFX GeForce 9500 GT is SLI® ready, which means that users can purchase two cards to deliver twice the performance of a single-card set-up.

XFX is a global presence in the world of electronic gaming. With its focus on making gaming to the extreme, XFX has developed an array of video cards, motherboards and accessories that are designed to maximize the entertainment experience.

A division of PINE Technologies, XFX operates its own manufacturing facility and maintains an R&D team that focuses some of the industry's most renowned talents. To learn more about the XFX GeForce 9500 GT, visit www.pinetech.com.

XFX GeForce® 9500 GT

LG NAVIDOM

LG Electronics turns 'techorator'

By Rina T. Dichaosina

CALLING ITSELF A "TECHorator," or someone who integrates technology in selling the home, LG Electronics Philippines Inc. has launched new premium appliances, which it hopes will help it crack the tough Philippine consumer market.

Philippines president and CEO Jeff Hong said that to raise the company's market share from 11 percent to at least 15 percent, LGE has come up with new premium products led by the Scarlet TV.

Living room

The marvelous during LG's recent launch at the SMX Mall was the LG60, more popularly known as the LG Scarlet TV. It boasts of Intelligent Sensor technology which detects the level of surrounding light and adjusts picture brightness accordingly.

Complementing the Scarlet TV at the launch was the Scarlet Home Theater System (LG-HT9511), which has a 1000W output, subwoofer with power sync control, iPod connections, touch screen and virtual surround sound.

Kitchen

From the living room to the kitchen, LG has a stylish yet feature-packed product.

LG's microwave line, for example, includes the LG NEOVEDGE, which has a round cavity compared with the conventional rectangular type. This round microwave oven offers 68 percent more space and 30 percent faster cooking time.

Utility area

Another major home chore and source of water and power expenses is washing the laundry, for which LG developed the Steam WasherTM Technology.

LG says its model consumes 11 percent less energy and less water, giving consumers big savings.

Aside from the Scarlet TV, microwave oven and washing machine, LG is also pushing its Breeze phone, home theater, air conditioner, MCD player, vacuum cleaner and dishwasher to the local market.

"All our products have top technology and good design, that is our aim as 'techorator', and we expect good response from 10to3 local market of our products," Hong said.

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Pay yourself first: Does it really work?

By Ms. Salve Duplito
Inquirer.net

IF FINANCIAL PLANNERS ARE to be believed, the road to wealth is paved with things like "paying yourself first"—a clever way of saying automatic savings should be at the top of your priorities. In other words, pay yourself first before you pay the electric, telephone, cable television and other bills.

It sounds deceptively simple. You'll find financial gurus David Bach ("Start Late, Finish Rich"), George Clason (who wrote the 1926 classic "The Richest Man in Babylon") and Efren U. Cruz ("Pinoy Sense: The Pinoy Guide to Personal Finance") preaching that if the government can automate taxes, you can do the same thing with personal savings.

That means you set aside a chunk of your income automatically every month even before

Painless ways to save

1. Pay your debts.
2. Automate savings.
3. Transfer the funds to a higher-yielding savings, trust or investment account.
4. Pretend you didn't get a increase or a raise.
5. Invest unexpected windfalls.
6. Look for new ways to save more.

The Mitsubishi Strada Scores ★★★★★

We have the Stars and a Moose to prove it.

2008 European New Car Assessment Program (EURO NCAP) and its Australian counterpart ANCAP awarded the Mitsubishi Strada four stars in the Adult Occupant Protection category. This is a test of the car's ability to survive a crash without passenger compartment collapse. It also passed the Moose test, which determines how vehicles act when the driver evades a suddenly appearing object.

For more details on test results, visit www.euroncap.com and www.ancap.com.au

Mitsubishi's Exclusive RISE Body Construction

Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE)

The comprehensive safety system of the Mitsubishi Strada offers all the occupants greatly improved all-around collision protection. Mitsubishi's exclusive RISE body construction incorporates front and rear crumple zones with reinforced beams to absorb collision force and direct it away from the vehicle's interior. The engine and drive components also absorb energy, preventing further damage from reaching the cabin.

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Good and effective leadership, Pinoy style

OVER A YEAR AGO, SOME members of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), led by then president Evelyn Singson, met to discuss a book writing project. Evelyn believed that MAP must contribute to the development of excellent Filipino leaders and wanted to write a book showcasing examples of current and past excellent leadership was a good start.

Those present were excited by the idea and in meetings were held that, first, concluded with the decision to go ahead with the project, and second, set up a small team that would coordinate the project to completion. The group decided to engage SGV Development International (SDI) and under Vic Magbanua, assigned to the research (with research questions decided upon by the MAP working group), engage the writers, and put together the book entitled "Extraordinary Stories for Aspiring Leaders."

For the book, MAP hoped to make a significant contribution in documenting the struggles and awakenings of extraordinary Filipino leaders in business, government or the community.

Much of what we know of leadership has come from Western and Japanese sources with a smattering of European sources. American and Japanese models of leadership constitute Filipino ideas of what is good leadership. Most Filipino managers, management professionals and students of leadership and management, whether in enterprise, government or community can talk at length about Jack Welch, Andy Grove, Collin Powell, Martin Skin, Matsushita Konosuke ... okay Lee Kuan Yew.

Outstanding examples

They are, however, hard pressed to mention outstanding Filipino leaders in the last 30 years of the 20th century and then never without citing their failures, which tarnishes the person.

This is sad because more than ever, there is need to showcase Filipinos who have showed and are showing the way to effective and extraordinary leadership. In these times when many of us have become cynical about the quality of leadership and of leaders in the country in all sectors, our youth need to know there is good leadership and there are good leaders in the country for someone to be inspired to follow and emulate. Besides, MAP hopes there to be able to put human faces to value good leadership is.

It was not difficult to get the large membership to agree that the book be written. But even the working group struggled on how it should be written: Was it to be a serious and scholarly tome complete with data from structured questionnaires, cross-tabulated results and statistically validated models of effective good leadership (yes, there is effective bad and evil leadership)?

MAPping the Future

Mario Antonio G. Lopez

The MAP working group wanted a book that would be easy and engaging for non-academic readers, yet providing them with deeper understandings of the complex topic, especially in the Philippines. The team members we named included young professionals, fresh graduates and wide-eyed young ones not yet out of school.

Deciding on a young audience made it easy to decide on language and style of writing: a conversational manner in writing the book. They were convinced through the Philippine office of IBM.

Certainly, there was high tension when it came to deciding who would be included. The challenges were many. Who are unchristly: Given over 120 contestants, every one deserving of inclusion, it was close-door no-saves not looking at size but several books. But which people should we include to inspire me? The job was unexpectedly easy when we developed three groups—the MAP Management Man of the Year awardees, and the second group—prospective candidates for the award, and get their cooperation. We believe that they would significantly contribute to efforts to define a Filipino management and leadership style.

The working group, in consultation with the overlapping circles of MAP audiences, arrived at a list of key questions about leadership and how leaders go about the act of leading. These questions included the following:

Did you have to "learn" leadership, or were you "born" a leader?

What education or training influenced and helped you grow as a leader?

Some leaders report that they had an influential person who coached or mentored them during their formative years. Who was it and what did you learn from your coach?

More successful leaders have philosophies or values that guide their actions. How have these helped you?

From time to time, leaders have challenges and have to balance one value versus another. What was the situation, how did you handle it and what was the outcome?

Enduring values

Which of your values have remained constant over time and which have changed? Tell us what brought about the change.

Most, if not all leaders, have at one time or another encountered some crisis in their careers. Some leaders refer to this as the defining moment in their lives." Tell us about your own "defining moments."

Over the years, you have amassed an impressive measure of experience. What's experience was most influential in your development as a leader?

What's over times you really felt good and proud having a leader? What made you feel good? What did you do or what did you accomplish?

In your opinion, what are some reasons for failures in leadership?

Being successful does not mean that there were no mistakes. What were some of your mistakes, and what were the lessons learned from these incidents?

What keeps you going as a leader? What do you find satisfying in the role? What do you dislike about the leadership role? Cite some specific instances or circumstances.

How significant is intelligence or IQ in contributing to leadership success?

Leaders serve a multitude of constituencies (shareholders, business partners, customers, employees, suppliers, community, etc.). Who among these did you have the greatest impact and influence on? How do you know you had an impact on them?

Currently, there is a rise in popularity of "faith-based" leadership seminars and speakers. Were Jesus Christ, Buddha and Mohammed your role models?

Answers to all the questions was not easy. Some of the respondents preferred not to answer some of the questions while dwelling at length on others. The readers will see these in the results.

Anonymous will be used by what some of them termed "a dimly quality" in the materials. That observation is valid. But that was anticipated because of the desire to make the conversations accessible to a larger, often less initiated readership. Changing the style will be considered for the next volumes.

First attempt

This is the first attempt at what we plan to be a continuing documentation of thinking and experience on good management and leadership in the country. We have learned many lessons on what to look for and how to present the findings with the least group of subjects. This does not preclude our getting back to many, if not all of the first subjects for clarifications and updating of the explored issues.

By the time you get to publish the second volume, some perspectives and models will have already emerged from the current material, to be validated in a third volume, at least that is our plan.

We hope you will find the stories told succinct, educational and inspiring.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is executive dean of Center for Development Management of Asian Institute of Management. The book is now available at National Book Store and MAP office. For book orders, please call MAP at 751-1040 to 52, facsimile or mapphi-bellow.com.ph)

Movements

Novel program attracts new investors

Makati Med announces exec movements

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER, INC. (MD) and Makati Medical Center announced that Richard B. Fisher has resigned from the position as vice-chair of the board of directors and as president and chief executive officer of MMI, effective on Aug. 15, 2008.

"I feel that I have already completed my mission with the successful turnaround of Makati Medical Center and I am ready to move on to face new challenges," explains Fisher.

The tenure of Fisher as president of MMI has been highlighted by many construction changes for the company and Makati Med, one of which is the return to profitability and earnings by MMI after years of deficit, as well as by reforms in governance and management systems. The reforms he used particularly on the professionalization of the company's management team and the implementation of corporate systems to enhance operational efficiency.

The MMI board has designated Dr. Manuel O. Fernandez Jr., its current executive vice president, as acting president. Augusto O. Palileo, Jr., executive director of Makati Pacific Investments Corp. and currently an MMI board member, will also be joining the company's management committee.

Convergys appoints new SVP

CONVERGYS Corp., a global leader in relationship management, announces the appointment of Mike Belcher as senior vice president, overseeing technology management (ITM). He will report to Dave Dougherty, president and CEO of Convergys.

In this leadership role, Belcher will be responsible for the overall success and continued growth of ITM. He will oversee the creation of strategic new execution, delivery of solutions and services to Convergys clients, implementation of existing technologies into solutions for new industries and markets, and the development of new Convergys relationship management solutions such as Convergys' recently announced Multichannel Administration Solutions portfolio.

Belcher brings more than 20 years of experience in the HCM space having most recently held the vice president, customer relationship management strategy role at Oracle.

DESPITE THE STOCK MARket's current swings, leading online funds broker See-It-Buy-It-Sell-It (SISI) has generated fresh interest in the market through a new program designed to minimize risks for first-time investors as they are in a position to reap rewards. As part of its commitment to educate and empower the Filipino investor, the stock market through education, SISI launched realize this month a simple yet effective investment program that has generated a stream of inquiries, many from investors who have no or low knowledge of the stock market and with minimal funds to initially invest.

The SISI Easy Investment Program minimizes risks for investments to the stock market while offering the benefits of wealth generation through investments in blue chip stocks. It employs the cost averaging method, an established wealth building tool employed by many individuals as well as some financial institutions worldwide, according to Ross Reiss, president of Edmonton-Star. "We have simply automated the cost averaging method. We have also provided additional features to our online platform to make it convenient for all investors to access and invest in the stock market," he explains.

For most first-time stock market investors, knowing when to buy and when to sell stocks is a tricky and discouraging task. By investing a fixed amount at regular intervals over a long period, an investor does away with the problem of timing in addition to the issue of timing, the SISI Easy Investment Program allows for investors a list of preselected stocks chosen by its seasoned financial analysts. The SISI Easy Investment Program paves down the dividend of investors in comparison with a person who is versed, high earnings, credible companies, superior products and services, a strong balance sheet and they all belong to solid growth industries.

Companies that currently meet those requirements are to Bellwether Stocks Ltd., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land, Manila Water, Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. and SM Prime Holdings. Over a five-year period beginning Aug. 25, 2003, these investment growth stocks showed superior rates of returns.

Ayala SISI vice president and head of investor education Jamil Barredo explains that unlike trading has made it a lot more convenient for customers to enjoy the benefits of cost averaging. "We have simplified the process so that even first-time investors can profit from it."

SISI clients can schedule their investments by setting up a fixed amount to be invested at regular intervals through SISI's online platform. Customers will be reminded via e-mail of a scheduled investment date. They will also be able to track their portfolio over the Internet anytime.

Reiss says that the SISI Easy Investment Program is an ideal entry point to the stock market for all investors. "This program caters to all even if they do not have the time and experience to invest in stocks. As investors become more confident in the stock market, they can avail of the greater opportunities offered to them by online trading."

CitiesOnline.com posted a 21-percent growth in net profits in the first half of the year on the back of its SISI stocks, market regular rate loan brokerages every week on the Easy Investment Program at the SISI Training Center, 24/F Philippine Stock Exchange Center in Pasig. Learn more about the program at www.citiesonline.com/easy

Pay yourself first: Does it really work?

From page B3-1

you see your paycheck, and put the money in a "no-touch" investment account and leave it there to grow. Then live on what is left of your income, even it means switching to cheaper brands, taking the jeepney commuting magazine subscriptions or doing extra work.

Some financial professionals go as far as saying this principle is the golden rule of personal finance. Essentially really, it allows you to earn interest from interest (magic of compounding). It begins the discipline of saving. Forced to live on a smaller income, it makes you reconsider all your lifestyle choices. It gives you the satisfaction that giving up certain perks now means your golden age will truly be that: happy and secure.

It is also easier said than done. That money could be used for many other things. It can pay for gas, the grocery bill this month, tuition, or the new computer Junior needs—all necessities, really. Some of us have tried to do it once or twice before, or an acquaintance has, and they don't have enough income to save, the truth is they are just living beyond their means.

When that's the case, people spend first and then save what is left of their income. That almost always ends up in zero savings or living in debt. The key is to keep in through forced savings, and live on what's left.

"In preparing for a financial event, the fastest way to accumulate funds is to save, which is paying yourself first. Investment only hastens such accumulation, but everything starts with saving," he says.

The strategy however, goes beyond just savings. It also means looking at what's left to spend on and adjusting your lifestyle even if it means cutting the cable connection or checking the mobile phone.

Needs commitment

It needs a lot of commitment. It also requires much creativity. To make it work, all consumer debt should be fully paid.

"It has to start from taking a serious look at how money is spent, then maybe rearranging the family budget to allow for such savings, and even starting whether the family income is really enough. Paying off debt is part of rearranging the family budget," Cruz says.

Most Filipino families will have to attack both sides of the equation. If expenses can no longer be squeezed, then increase income by doing extra work or starting a small business on the side. That's Cruz's holistic approach to building wealth.

He make the "pay yourself first" strategy work, financial experts say you have to make saving painless. Here are some tips to make this happen:

1. Pay your debts. There's no use trying to build up wealth if you are paying 42 percent per annum on consumer loans, or even more for the "5-6" operation next door. Just paying off your credit cards frees up P12 out of every P100 in your budget. That's truly a painless way to save money.

2. Automate savings. Open a separate account and arrange with your bank to transfer funds automatically at a certain day of the month. If you don't see the money, don't touch it, saving it becomes painless. If your bank can't do this for you, transfer your money to another one.

3. Treat the Bonus as a higher-yielding savings, mutual or investment account. Better still if the funds are locked in. You can look, but not touch. Sometimes every year if returns match your goals, but may close of some that offer returns that are too good to be true. Invest only in vehicles you understand.

4. Pretend you didn't get a bonus or a raise. You've lived on your income for a year, how much more difficult would it be to live on the same amount this year? Take out a small amount out of the money (say 5 percent), and add the rest to your investment account.

5. Invest unexpected windfalls. Filipinos are great at planning, especially when it's about spending some unexpected somewhere: gifts, inheritance, overtime pay, from a sideline or other kinds of sudden windfalls. Get out of the habit of spending money you have not yet received. Instead, stash it all away and make it grow. Filipino blogger Miguel Lim (http://www.thefrugalwife.com) shared how this technique has helped her make great progress in her savings program.

6. Look for new ways to earn more. Sidelines and "suckers" (make sure they are legal) increase the amount you pay yourself regularly. Ask friends, relatives and colleagues what needs they have that you can provide. Perhaps your tax return may be shutting your expertise among your friends. This is the age of knowledge workers—financial and jewelry makers are not the only ones who can make a living out of their spare time.

(For more articles on personal finance, read Money Matters at http://blogs.inquirer.net/moneymatters. In the interest of public disclosure, the writer of this article is co-author of "Pinoy Me! The Pinoy Guide To Personal Finances").

Midrange, low-cost houses are in

By Riza T. Olchondra

PROPERTY BUYERS' APPETITES ARE changing, particularly those of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who make up the biggest market for real estate.

Officials of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc., told the business that buyers were now going for either unclaimed (cheaper) flats or condos, or, more significantly, midrange properties.

"More people are buying for investment, especially OFWs. They (OFWs) are no longer made up of domestic helpers or caregivers. They are mostly nurses, doctors, IT people, even bankers, managers. They get better pay and are more likely to think about investing," Cielito Sunicod, president of Region III, Bonnie D. told the business.

Real estate as investment

Apparently, low-cost properties used to be the bestsellers. These were humble and fair properties or condominium units priced from P750,000 to around P2 million.

"Downscale numbers mean small properties worth 'only' P2 million and below" Romero quipped.

He said the trend may be surprising amid the global economic slowdown. But it makes sense considering that midrange customers are in better conditions than low-cost and thus have better rental and reselling value—six are in tough times.

"The low sellers now are the properties priced between P1 million and P7 million. These are mostly townhouses ... there are a few condo units," Romero said.

Seeing sales opportunities, Cebu is thus adding fuel to the midrange frenzy via road shows in foreign markets with large OFW communities, according to Pedro Jardeleza, who spearheads such overseas Cebu.

"We want to Qatar early this year, to Singapore in April and to Milan and London around late June to early July. Going road shows are create a favorable atmosphere and show the range of properties in the Philippines to the OFW communities," Jardeleza said.

The other trade shows for 2006 will be in other parts of the Middle East and the United States.

Romero said that if the current trend for midrange buying continues, the real estate

ROMERO

industry could march to 6-percent revenue growth in 2007 despite inflationary pressures. This would then help prop up other industries and the overall economy.

Other trend: Ultrashrap

While not as strong as the midrange segments in terms of growth, socialized housing is still a major driver of the real estate industry, said Romero.

Socialized housing developments offer house and lot packages worth around P300,000.

"There is still strong growth in socialized housing, especially in areas around economic zones and industrial estates. The buyers are workers and their families," Romero said.

To support socialized housing he lauded government assistance for developers' and buyers' incentives.

On the developers' side, Cebu obtained government permission to import raw materials for steel to bulk. The materials, mostly steel billets, are processed by steel manufacturing members of Cebu for the needs of other members. Developers and contractors also get some income tax rebates.

On the buyers' side, value-added tax exemptions are often included in their payment packages. The packages are tied up with government institutions such as Pag-ibig and the Development Bank of the Philippines and there are no down payments demanded.

As for the inevitable question about demand from the outsourcing industry, Romero said it's consistently growing, especially outside Metro Manila. But the midrange buys for OFWs are still the bestsellers of this lot.

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TODAY'S FLIGHT ATTENdants need more than a pretty face to render service for an airline's passengers. They need specialized skills and knowledge, the aptitude for grace under pressure, patience and a chance in dealing with others and, most importantly, they must be prepared to handle any obstacle while flying 30,000 feet above ground.

This is the new direction being pursued by WCC Flight Attendant School, which relaunched its course in improving the image and work standards of flight attendants, which continuously evolves with the times.

The soaring demand for airline professionals around the world, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, makes the industry more attractive than ever. Lucrative opportunities and rapid career growth await pilots, flight attendants and aircraft mechanics.

In fact, according to Carmelito Guiao, director of the WCC Flight Attendant School, a local airline is now on a massive recruitment program to hire about 300 flight attendants who can serve in their homebasing flights for various routes nationwide and to the region.

45-day training

The WCC Flight Attendant School offers a 45-day training course that teaches students about the skills required from today's flight attendants. According to Guiao, the course, which takes one-and-a-half months to complete, is comparable in the training conducted by the airlines for their crew of flight attendants.

The fit training course consists of five modules. The first is personality development and image enhancement.

Aircraft basics is the focal point of the second module, in familiarizing students with essential information about the various types and features of an aircraft.

Under the third module, students are required to undergo hard and water drills and different emergency procedures.

In the fourth module, students learn the importance of customer service in flight, how to effectively relate to the different types of passengers and how to handle a range of complaints. The fifth module acquaints students with the in-flight service rules and regulations.

The WCC Flight Attendant School is operated under the WCC Aviation Company, established in 2001 and headed by president and CEO Capt. Ramon V. Guiao III, who is also presently the vice mayor of Biliran.

Another advantage of the school is the job assistance that it offers to students. "We assume the role of helping graduates look for jobs. We pass their resumé to the airlines and guide the applicant during the interview stages. Even after finishing the course, we conduct mock interviews prior to their actual interviews."

For graduate Reynold Bajo attendant, himself who has worked at a top international airline for 14 years, his only goal is to help his students fulfill their dreams.

According to Guiao, new flight attendants get a salary of about $1,000 a month which can further go up through years of experience.

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Talent-hungry small ...

To page B3-4

said. "There's just that much more to choose from."

Top managers at financial firms earned about 33 percent less in total compensation last year, according to recruiters and consultants.

While year-end bonus payouts are not the bottom, they report a further decline this year in some industries, with performing employees are tucked in an effort to lower overall costs.

Paul Sarbers, president of US-national-executive recruiting firm Alliance Consulting, said banks and other financial shops are increasingly thinning staff among groups that are performing well and ahead of budget.

"They're tired of catering to the boss," he said, repeating the adage that Wall Street firms tend to overhire and then overfire. "But people are very opportunistic when attracting good people, and there's a lot of hiring going on right now."

Among the winners has been Evercore Partners Inc., a New York-based merger advisory boutique that is done hired Daniel Ciporkin as senior managing director for restructuring advisory. He had left Bear Stearns after it collapsed and was sold to JP Morgan Chase & Co. this year.

Evercore CEO Roger Altman said investors as a call last month. "This particular market condition affords new recruiting opportunities, and we are able to find people and make the types of economic agreements with them that one doesn't normally see."

In San Francisco, investment bank Thomas Weisel Partners has hired former employees of UBS AG, Bank of America Corp., Merrill and Bear in recent months.

"We're really excited to see some high-quality talent come on and looking for jobs," Lloyd Carnahan, Thomas Weisel's president, told Reuters. "We have been a direct beneficiary of the dislocations ... in the larger firms."

But there are signs the business will not last. Some Wall Street heavyweights say they are running the current Goldman Sachs Group Inc. unit, more recently, Morgan Stanley, have stated they actually plan to hire this year.

Morgan Stanley said it would spend some of the $1 billion it saved slashing 4,000 jobs in first year to recruit brokers and traders.

That could help spur a decrease in US financial sector, which suffered 100,775 announced job cuts between January and the end of July up 30 percent from the same period last year, according to data from global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

There were 21,317 announced job cuts in July down 19 percent from June.

John Challenger, the firm's CEO, said the job-cut cycle has run just bottomed and he added that over the last year, his clients in financial services have taken four to five months to find new jobs, up from an average of three months.

But despite the longer, often nerve-wracking wait, "we're seeing a lot of smaller firms crop up for talent," he said.

Reuters

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Citi Asia Pacific bags award

CITIASIA PACIFIC continued to sweep the global Finance Magazine Internet awards, winning 11 awards in the Best Consumer Internet Bank and Best Corporate Institutional Internet Bank categories in 2006. This is the fourth year in a row that Citi has dominated Global Finance's list of "World's Best Internet Banks in Asia."

Citi was the overwhelming winner in the Best Consumer Internet Bank group, winning nine awards, including one for the Philippines, which also bagged the award in 2005. The other awards are countries in Asia-Australia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, Citi Philippines was given the award for Best Online Cash Management.

For the Best Consumer Internet Bank category, Citibank again won in the Philippines, as well as in Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Korea and Thailand. This latest recognition is the fourth time Citi Philippines won the nod from Global Finance. Citi Philippines earlier received the Best Consumer Internet Bank accolade from Global Finance in 2004, 2005 and 2006 for its online banking site at www.citibank.com.ph.

Ajay Banga, chief executive officer of Citi Asia Pacific, said: "The Internet is central to Citi Asia Pacific's growth strategy. Speed and simplicity are at the foundation of everything we do."

Citi Asia Pacific estimates that almost 20 percent of its retail and current customers have today use the Internet for their banking transactions.

According to Global Finance Magazine, the winning banks were selected based on the following criteria: Strength of strategy for attracting and servicing online customers, success in getting clients to use Web offerings, growth of online customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from internal initiatives, and website design and functionality.

First prepaid IDD SIM

SUNCELLULAR launches the new Call & Text International SIM—the first prepaid SIM in the market that offers values for international calling and messaging. Texting international now only costs P1 per text. This rate applies to 20 countries including the US, Canada, UAE, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Calls cost $0.10 per minute. That's less than P5 per minute for calls to 20 countries that includes the US, Canada, China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

IDD calls to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Japan, Australia, India and 15 other countries are also very affordable at only $0.20 per minute. This special rate is initially available for Sun Call & Text International SIM subscribers. Sun's regular IDD rate to call over 100 countries is $0.30 per minute.

Sun Call & Text International SIM comes preloaded with free five messages to 09216, and free international texts. It can be used to make local calls and texts.

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BUSINESS Monday

Ways to manage virtual teams

Virtual team leaders should be able to manage different cultures, be sensitive to team dynamics, be creative in building teams

By Vanessa C. Villabar and Marites A. Rhanor
Contributors

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY have paved the way for different modes of doing and organizing work. Coordinating and working with coworkers without meeting face to face is now a reality for many organizations. But how does one manage virtual teams? The Asian Center for Organization Research and Development (Asian CORD) asked three Filipino managers to shed light on the challenges that they faced in managing virtual teams and the management practices that they consider to be valuable in ensuring their effectiveness.

Ensure clarity of objectives and accountability of team members

According to one manager, managing virtual teams boils down to having clear objectives and knowing how to communicate the points out that having clear objectives makes the division of work easier. Managing a global virtual team demands that processes are setup and that people have a hand in determining what these processes will be. Deliverables and schedules have to be laid down clearly as well.

Pay attention to team composition

It is especially important to find the right mix of people for the team. Having someone in charge keeping tabs on everything and effectively relaying information to others is important. The selection of individual team members is vital, too. Although people can be good technically, this does not ensure that they would be good communicators. This means that not everybody is cut out for virtual work, such as long hours, the need to cope with the demand of learning how to communicate virtually and the fact that members must work independently. Thus, it is important to choose team members who are self-motivated.

Information systems support

Clearly, a virtual team needs support in terms of sharing and storing information. Some of these are readily available through standardized software development protocols. Special attention should be paid to security issues as well. The virtual manager has to be knowledgeable in these so as to ensure that the team can work effectively.

Adjusting management style

The management style of the leader to a virtual team might also considerably change, especially when team members are culturally different. The virtual manager should be culture sensitive. It is also important that the virtual manager acts as a coach rather than a director, perhaps because virtual team members are more independent when it comes to getting their work done. A manager should make it a point to look out for people's work-life balance by negotiating schedules and upholding rules such as making sure meetings have an agenda and that people stick to the allotted discussion/meeting time.

Capability building

Training people on conducting work virtually is, likewise, important. Some programs that are helpful are trainings on handling conference calls and setting e-mails that are short and to the point. To maintain a balance between work and family, employees can be encouraged to work from home depending on their setup.

Team-building

Inviting face-to-face get-togethers at least once a year, especially if the team is a permanent one that is, working together for more than three months, also help alleviate the feeling of isolation for team members. Although work can indeed be accomplished without physical interaction, personal familiarity with their virtual teammates somewhat makes the workload lighter. Familiarity helps when conflicts and disagreements strikes the team scene. A manager adds that when disagreements happen over the phone, it will be hard to meet working relationships if the personal relationship is not that strong. Worse, the whole team might suffer.

Nevertheless, holding team-building sessions can be expensive, though, so virtual team-building can be an alternative. PowerPoint presentations accompanied by pictures of team members can be used. Virtual teams require leaders who have the ability to manage different cultures, are sensitive to team dynamics, are creative in building team cohesion despite the separation in space and time. In an increasingly technologically driven society, there may soon have no choice but to step up to the unique challenges of managing virtual teams.

(Villabar is a graduate of the MA in industrial/organizational psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila University. Rhanor is director of the Capitol University Research and Extension Office in Cagayan de Oro City. This article is an abridged version of a study featured in "Leading Philippine Organizations in a Changing World" (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2006). Feedback at rmore@edtechnic.edu.ph.)

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Talent-hungry small firms cheer Wall St. job cuts

NEW YORK—SMALLER FINANCIAL firms have found a way to capitalize on their larger rivals' woes, moving to snap up some of the top talent cast adrift by sweeping layoffs at leading investment banks.

Such firms, many of which have ducked the troubling pegging Wall Street, are plucking what they see as gems in the fallout from the credit crunch, which has led to more than 100,000 financial sector job losses so far in 2008.

As accountants at the biggest banks prepare for next year's budgets, their smaller cohorts are betting the cuts will create more skilled hires next year, increasing the pool of unemployed talent both deeper and cheaper.

"You buy your name hats in the winter," Ed Wedbush, president of Wedbush Morgan Securities, said of the windfall of affordable talent.

The Los Angeles-based investment bank, with annual revenue of $330 million, has grown from 600 employees to 820 in the last two years, Wedbush said. "We've been able to take advantage of the situation, clearly."

One year after problems in the $30 mortgage market bloomed into a full-blown financial crisis, big banks are under immense pressure to contain losses caused by write-downs.

Many have responded by slimming payrolls. New York-based Citigroup Inc. has wielded perhaps the biggest ax, chopping 14,000 jobs this year alone. Over the same period, Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. trimmed some 4,200 staffers.

But unlike in past financial crises, **not everyone is caught in this downturn.** While mortgage-related securities ran on the balance sheets of larger players, firms that avoided the worst of those products finally have the leverage needed to hire the talent that was previously out of reach.

"This has been a great environment for boutiques and regional firms," said Gary Goldstein, president and chief executive of Whitney Group, an executive search firm specializing in financial services.

The job cuts are "music to their ears," he

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New abstract works by Piedra

RAUL PIEDRA MOUNTS A NEW exhibition of abstract works, "Infinite," Aug. 30-Sept. 8 at Galerie Raphael, Serendra, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

The show features the "Anitaas" series of acrylic-on-paper works.

Through the years, Piedra has had more than 30 one-man exhibitions in the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. He took up Fine Arts at Philippine Women's University.

Call 8563034.

Tequi exhibit focuses on Perigord episode

By Walter Ang
Contributor

MULTI-AWARDED painter and printmaker Dhiba "Tiba" Echiverri-Tequi was recently featured in the "100 Heroes" hard-cutting art exhibit of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) for the university's centennial celebrations.

Known for her still lifes and open-air paintings, Tequi admits she does not usually tackle nudes as a subject. Shown in exhibit were four nude sketches she executed in a classroom-type setting she took further studies at the Academia di Belle Arti di Roma.

Tequi was awarded the UPAA Distinguished Alumni Award for Culture and the Arts at the grand homecoming and reunion held in Antonio Calleja.

"It was a surprise for me. I frankly did not expect it," she says. "It's a nice feeling to be validated for what we artists do," she says. "While other alumni are getting awarded for causes like poverty alleviation, I'd like to think that we (artists) showcase the alleviation of the soul."

Tequi was born to Bello but had a peripatetic childhood.

"My father Ramon G. Echiverri was a military man. We moved from place to place as he was assigned to different camps in the Philippines," she remembers. "But when we settled to go to good schools for more 'artistic' education, we stayed put in Manila.

"My mother, Milagros L. Lucas, graduated from the UP Conservatory of Music and we always had music in the house—the popular songs of her youth and classical music. We learned to be diverse in our musical taste although one of us made music production, but the military for the rest."

Growing up, Tequi always liked to draw, but when she got to college, she initially enrolled in Mass Media.

"I thought I'd journal to be a kind of Brenda Brue [a comic strip character]. During my time, there was still no real journalism degree," she says. "But I was thankful for the literature courses I had to take. These later became sources for what I would express visually. It was journalistic lens to some regree in two old Ateneo colleges and take up two courses simultaneously, which was what I did."

Tequi double-enrolled in Fine Arts and drew the cast "wonderful people, great human beings forth in the classroom and outside" who helped mold her artistic talents.

"I had several National Artists as teachers like BVM Gonzales and Abel Joya. Jean was not only someone but was also a friend. I remember her riding the bus with him that went along Edsa as he lived all the way in Pasay then, while I got off at Shaw Boulevard."

Colors of home

After college, Tequi has had over 30 solo exhibitions since 1979 in Manila, Paris, New York and Moscow, as well as numerous group shows since 1968 in various countries. She was the first female recipient of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Thirteen Artist Awards.

For painting, Tequi usually uses acrylic on canvas or rag paper; oil on silk. For printmaking, she usually does color etching on zinc or copper plates and engraving on copper.

"My maternal grandfather, Pablo Lucas, was the first Filipino director of the Bureau of Printing. Perhaps I inherited the genes for printmaking from him. I also, later on, was a book designer for the UP Press," she says.

The major themes or topics Tequi deals with in her works revolve around "politics, our relationship with the Almighty and time."

In the home Tequi shares with husband Klaus, a retired banker, in France, practically all of the art works are by Filipino artists.

"We have a number of works by Arca, of course," she says. "Macario Vitalis, Imelda, Claude Tayag, Phyllis Zaldarriaga, Pepe San Pascual, H.M. de Leon and many more. I also have a 1926 Amorsolo landscape that I inherited from my mother."

Tequi's husband was actually her French teacher when she was in college.

"He was teaching in UP and the Alliance Francaise in lieu of the military service they was obligatory to France at that time," she recounts.

They married in 1977 and moved to France the same year. Her daughter and two sons are now all married and have given Tequi five grandchildren.

Between two lands

Her last exhibit in Manila was two years ago at Hidden Gallery. That year, Tequi will be sharing a glimpse of her life in France with Filipino art lovers. Tequi is preparing for an exhibit to be featured at the Alliance Francaise.

"It will be called 'Origami (till Life).' Perigord is the region where my family and I live, and my still-life paintings are, in some way, my life there in that village. There will be around 30 pieces of acrylic on linen and they will range from small to big sizes.

"I've used Perigord as a theme on and off starting with my exhibit with Bodil Laying in Rizzio, but never consistently as starting with my show at the Ateneo Gaining's Hiroo Gallery."

Despite living many from the Philippines, Tequi doesn't have strong ties to her land of birth. In fact, she becomes a "rich and exited tourist for Philippine art."

She states: "There is a lot of public interest in local artists who can satisfy a great range of tastes with works of high quality from the experimental to the conservative. And not just in the visual arts. Theatre is very much alive and breed. In France right now, Filipino cinema is included in the Paris Film Fest. Nin Phaspa have something to say to the world, we 'say' it in our language and we are sure the world will hear it."

For details on 'Perigord (till Life,'' contact Alliance Francaise Manila at tel. no. 8957441.

Sanso landscapes on exhibit

WHEN HE RECEIVES SOON the Chevalier for the Order of arts and Letters from the French government, Juvenal Sanso will reaffirm his status as one of the most multi-awarded Philippine-based visual artists.

Galeria Joaquin Main is holding a special exhibit of 40 works from Sanso collected over the years, "Parallel Impressions," Aug. 27-Oct. 16.

Sanso lived in Paris for 50 years and his paintings of the vibrant and challenging landscapes of the Brittany coast form a large part of his body of works. Sanso spent 24 summers of his life from 1958 to 1982 at the summer residence of the Yves de la Daunes family in the French coast of Brittany.

To be presented in this current exhibition are works by the artist that were inspired by Brittany. Also included are Philippine landscapes such as the works and views of Mondoloan where the artist spent several years when the family evacuated there during the Japanese occupation, various areas in the Batangas coast where the Sansos and the quiet days and evenings spent in Calatagan with Enrique Zobel, and an Ilocos years, with the Laurel family in Mandaluyong.

"The first visit to Calatagan, we passed the Tagaytay ridge. It was so foggy we couldn't see a thing so the way over but on the way back it proved to be a glorious sight," Sanso said.

Tagaytay and the tranquil Taal Lake, too, inspired many paintings. The Tagaytay trip started when as a students at Elbo Area at the University of the Philippines in the early 1950's, the young Sanso did on-the-spot paintings with his classmates.

The trips continued with Cesar Legaspi and the Saturday Group for sketching sessions. Sanso still goes to Tagaytay whenever invited for rest and relaxation there by Henry Sy and his family.

Other landscape sets of the Pasig River, Subic, and the Cavite coast, including the hills at Tanauan, where Sanso would paint the Manila Bay sunset. "Parallel Impressions" gives a unique opportunity on how the Brittany paintings combined with impressions gleaned in the Philippines have helped shape the art of Sanso.

Sanso received Presidential Medal of Merit Award from the Republic of Philippines in 2006 and the Order of Isabella from King Juan Carlos of Spain in 2007. He will now have as part of his accomplishments three of the highest medals or knighthoods for cultural achievement from the three countries he has lived in: Spain, France and the Philippines.

Galeria Joaquin Main is located at 127 F Carvajal St. and Montecastro Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7219503 or 7219508. Visit www.galeriajoaquin.com.

Buen Calubayan's 'Crawling Man'

BUEN CALUBAYAN PRESENTS HUMAN disembodied by suspended "brain-dumpling fabric" in his "Crawling Man," 40-exhibit at Ust Gallery at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

In oil-on-canvas, the artist, who finished fine arts at UST, depicts bodies on all fours, their disproportion made prominent by stop-motion of human figures' protruding midriff. There are also mirror images of such pieces, whether back or front views, as if to show deterioration as a couple-entry closing in. This is echoed by the installation of a bundle of sandpapers with miniature brains encased on the gallery floor.

All through his elevens, Calubayan's mastery of the brush shines, proof that his talents have not affected his crystal master after all.

"Crawling Man" runs until Aug. 31. Call 904 3102.

Visual

Ventura at West
Stan Ventura presents "X-Plained," an exhibit of silver acrylic paintings that accentuate the artist's series on the human condition over the point of view of eighteen-century-era. Ventura studied Fine Arts at the University of the East. His show runs until Sept. 7. Bldg. 6, Sta Megamall, Mandaluyong. 6307281.

Art show in Davao
Kulinaria Art Foundation, a... cross-cultural communities... Annual Indigenous Peoples... Davao City on Aug. 30-Sept... sa Mindanao." The exhibition ... such as sculpture, interactive... eBay, community sale, cultural... competition. The "Inakayan" ... Magsaysay Park. "Under the Earth," a convergence exhibit... at Museo Dabawenyo. Visit...

Olazo at Ayala
Finarc Gallery and Ayala Mu... "Abod," an exhibit of new ... by abstract master Romulo ... Aug. 25 in Antofagasta, 2/F... seum, Greenbelt Park, Makati... St., Makati.

Carlos at La Soufflé

...lination of emasculate nude... or, celebrating literal earth-... 398 6872 or 0926 9823337.

De Leyola at Alab
Some de Leyola presents his... ang," at Alab de Espana at the... Office of the Philippines on...

Abon at Crucible
Cruz Abon rounds his first ... Mondo," until Aug. 31 at the... Bldg. 4, Sta Megamall, Mandaluyong. ... the last of Pugadlaut, a ... economics of changing landscapes as a departure from ... works wedding photography ... bit manipulation to produce ... nostalgia and modernism. ... Amorsolo countryside paintings ... colors and regulates, combining ... framing, angles of depth and ... to optimize experience in ... total features 23 photographs. ... 09/7-8683401 or email the...

Group exhibit at The
About 20 artworks by nine ... artists will be on view in the ... Pollock, Mondalagan, Aguilar, ... ands and Villaba." The exhibit ... ages of popular comic-book ... bequeathed by contemporary ... da Velasco, Norlie Maandag, ... Jose Rizal Pantilie Gonzalez, ... tzan, Joker, Rubi, Rambo, ... Men among others will be ... using oil, acrylic and mixed ... visit www.mcgowen.com.

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Faber-Castell art contest

Faber-Castell is holding the Giving Award 2008, a visual arts contest in two categories, oil on canvas or plywood and water-based acrylic or watercolor on paper. The theme and style are free. Artists are not required to use Faber-Castell products. Only works dated 2008 are accepted. Entries must be original and have not been exhibited or awarded by other award-giving corporate sponsors. A combatant may enter one entry each in both categories. All entries must measure 2 ft by 3 ft. Orientation may be horizontal or vertical. Framing is optional but entry must have provisions for hanging. Entry forms are available at Walnut Books Store on Lawton Avenue, Bonifacio Global North Drive and Old Megamall. Entry forms may also be reproduced or downloaded from www.underwaterpalmmedia.com. In all, first prize is P100,000, second prize, P50,000, third prize, P25,000. Two honorable mentions will receive P5,000 each. In the water-based category, the first prize winner is P50,000. Honorable mentions will receive P4,000 each. Aside from the cash prizes, all winners will receive Faber-Castell products. Deadline is Sept. 30. Submit to Uniglits, Rizon Centre, Unit 3, 121 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills City.

Viviksan at Ayala

Ayala Museum presents "Viviksan: New Works by Nestor Vitarte Viviksan," until Sept. 28. The exhibit features large-scale paintings, sphenes and metallic face works. Nature was and still is the matrix of the content and composition of Viviksan's new works. A lecture and gallery talk with Viviksan is set on Sept. 6 where his works, techniques, and creative process will be discussed. Museum admission fee includes lecture. Call 7071111 loc 311 local 28.

Wikaro at Drawing Room

"MELTING Person," by Ericng Wikaro

"Black Gold," by Ericng Wikaro, a leading Indonesian contemporary artist, is on view until Sept. 1 in The Drawing Room, Mezzanine Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. Call 8878880.

Feast artists at De las Islas

Feast University School of Fine Arts and the Feast Art Group present "Batik Sosial: Images from Philippine Cultures," until Sept. 15 at Galleria de las Islas, 3F, Glorietta Center, 1103 Calle Real del Palacio, Ideamerce, Manila. The exhibit features the works of Ikner Solsenber, Joseph Villamor and Janine Lisson-Young. Call 8727113.

"A JUVENILE Project of the Working Class," by JJ Zamoranos

'Conflikto' at Blue Wings

"Conflikto: Talking in Magnifiko" features pop surreal works of 21 young Filipino artists. They take inspiration from comic book characters Conflikto and Magnifiko conceptualized by Joel Dellosa. Conflikto represents the struggles that young artists face, such as lack of access to prestigious art galleries. Show runs until 30 Sept. 12, in Blue Wings, ArtSpace, 2/L, Rufo's Deli Café, 110 C Santarosa Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 4262870.

Remalante, Basilio at UST

Mon Remalante and Arlen Basilio, an art man and now full-time college professors, will hold a joint exhibit in digital photography in the Beato Angelico Art Gallery, College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Santo Tomas. Showcased will be over 70 photographs. "Northern Light" is the title of Mon's online while Arlie's is titled, "O cielo quito mar (Potter by the Sea)." The exhibit will be in cooperation with Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc., Vizcal Marketing Corp., Star Paper Cor., Whapakit!, the Advertising Arts Organization of UST (AAO) and UTAE Faculty Association. The Child Foundation will be beneficiary. Curator is Mary Ann Ronkonig Rubanadi. Exhibit will run Aug. 26-30.

...op." "a photo exhibit at the Makati City Hall in commemoration of the ...ths nationalcamp. Shown in photo are Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay ...on Binay viewing the photographs of Aquino taken by Rafael Ramos "Boy" ...ongcruzada. The exhibit is open to the public. Call 8916231/8870.

...CRAWLING Man") (right) "Tambayanan" installation detail

Pacena's 'Silhouettes' at Whitebox

"THE SPECTATOR" 2 (left) and I (below)

"THE VIEWER"

"SILHOUETTES IN DAYLIGHT" in Whitebox Studio (Stall 10, Unino Expo, Cubao, Quezon City) features the new works of J. Pacena II.

The series zeroes in on the experiences of the artist as he walks along Commonwealth Avenue near the Philtrea (Philippine Current Sculpture).

The show consists of the artist's observation on street characters such as the "Siberak Boys" (cigarette vendors), "Sampaguita Vendor," Blind Man Playing Guitar," and "Magtatabo" (sweet tofu vendor).

"Silhouettes" is about these people's lives. "They are just there, with no particular faces, waiting at us, and all are anonymous are just blurs," said Pacena.

Pacena lived in UP Diliman, Diliman along Philtrea for 27 years. He now resides in Cubao.

Pacena's works are the series are different from his usual large-scale digital-art manipulations. Aside from working on smaller-scale works, he now uses oil. The images have a surreal feel, almost abstract, the use of elements is more of an expressionism of simple shapes working together with figures that emanate balance on the composition.

The series invites viewers to feel the textures, the textures of a tangible object, showing the beauty of imperfection in the lines and the unique qualities of oil paint as a medium.

J. Pacena II is a music-video director. He teaches at the Arts Studio College. He's also a graphics-art designer and musicians.

He is a member of the Batok Kampanye art group led by Emmanuel Garibay, Kano Flores, Jose Tence Ruiz and Noel Soler Cabrera, who curates "Silhouettes."

Pacena has a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Santo Tomas where he used to teach.

"Silhouettes in Daylight" opens on Aug. 15 and runs until Aug. 26.

Call 0915-7810333 or 4373809.

Filipino Modern architecture in the 1930s

JOSE MA. RECHDO Bacolle, the guiding spirit of the Museo de la Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite, sent an incredible collection of fragile, yellowed architectural clippings from the defunct Sunday Tribune Magazine in 1938, a generous gift of rare archival information that deserves to be shared.

The vintage architectural images and the accompanying written descriptions in the loquacious writing style of the 1930s provide a rare (but limited) glimpse into how "Peace Time" (pre-World War II) modernism provided the perfect setting to the Philippine lifestyle during the Steamboat colonial period.

"I dropped by the Shipbuilding Division of Technology one day," writes the unnamed editor of the Home Section in the July 3, 1938 piece, "Beauty and the Bay." "to see the exhibition of the students' work.

"Among the designs of residential houses which I have picked out is this one by Demetrio I. Colegado ... that of a one-story house ... a cluster (pronounced cloo-ter in the Philippines), as it is popularly known...with a ground floor which may be utilized for the laundry room and servants' quarters.

"Let us see how the plan works... after all, that is the true test for the livability of a house. We turn the handle on the driveway that leads directly to the garage to the back. We step the car on to stop and alight at the main entry. Doors and floors are given to form the aisles—these are growing things in the concrete boats, the only decorative details of the approach ...

The cellar continues. "The [entry] porch is tiled and used with the shadows of the eaves...eaves which are alive with the drama of hand-carved rafters ... Now we step into the living room; digitalis is also put familiar and almost too intimate. We feel at home—and the feeling is instantaneous and clinging. Can it be because of the bay window at each end with its nook in one?

"The open terrace is visible through tall French windows ... [the terrace is] open and is tiled and is so handy for late afternoon tea and for quiet conversation with the stars. ... [The dining room ... also connects to the terrace. That is why this dining room is roomy and the meals are hearty and fine.

"We go next to the kitchen, a small compact affair where the wife may go about her cooking with pleasure. Its convenience, everything is within reach ... ventilation is two-way and ample ... the floor is tiled and walls are waterproofed."

STANDARDIZED materials were used for cluster construction.

Also to make the "Beauty with the Bay" house yours? The editor's note at the end of the article advises, "This house may be constructed with a combination of different groups of banter: girl for posts, ringgill for flooring and walls, apilong for roof framing. The ground wall may be of adobe stones or bricks, the windows of framed glass, and the roof of corrugated galvanized iron sheets. Complete, this may cost P4,000 or thereabouts."

Catching the imagination

The cluster caught the imagination of the day. Compared to large, often unwieldy and difficult-to-maintain houses from the bahay na bato era, the low, one-story cluster was relatively affordable, compact, and easy to maintain.

Not only was their architecture and technology reflective of the Commonwealth times, cluster units constituted to power parts of the city planned to function as subdivision homes where a front lawn on the house back from the street and side lawns separated the house from neighbors. These were houses built on individual lots with gardens everywhere. No more crowded city neighborhoods.

Could that be the introduction of the house-and-lot image in the Philippines?

Unlike the bahay na bato laboriously constructed from hand-hewn materials mostly preserved out-of-doors natural habitats and loaded in the construction site, the cluster was different.

Built almost entirely of commercially available materials, the cluster was easy to construct from standardized pieces, steel-reinforced concrete for the Philippine adaptation, lumber-reinforced masonry) and factory milled lumber cut to standard size.

They were efficiently fitted out to be efficient as well as comfortable, equipped with running water and full bathrooms, easy to clean tile floors, plain concrete or wood walls, glass windows, and wired for the latest conveniences, electricity and telephone.

Not everything was mass-bought or machine-made. As the article says, hand-loom cotton held up the screen and railings are of hand-wrought iron grillwork. Evidently the appreciation for quality material and good craftsmanship was not lost in the early machine age.

It was no wonder that the cluster became the modern man-homes in the country, canvassed in large numbers by developers in the new subdivisions opening up in Forbes and Makati, outlying Manila districts.

In time, cluster versions appeared in cities and towns all over the country and became the favored residential style because it suited the Philippine environment and temperament so well.

Not to the cluster architecture's foreign architecture totally unsuitable to the Philippine environment. From the magazine article, the entire living area of the house is raised one floor above the ground, providing insulation in the traditional Philippine practice seen in the bahay na nipa and bahay na bato.

Much like the Spanish adaptof the "bahay na nipa," the cluster continues local architecture practices, winner-proving them in the USA's style.

Although now of galvanized iron sheets and no longer of nipa nito slats, cluster roofs remain steep, with overhangs still present windows from sun and rain, windows now made of glass instead of bapis still slide wide open to allow the entry of air, and to increase ventilation, the verandilla (opening between floor and window sill) is still used.

Many rooms open out into verandahs and balconies, bringing in more light and air to the house interior than the bahay na bato ever had, an improvement over the older house.

Like the bahay na bato before it, the cluster runs a "terra" architecture that, although benign in provenance, really adapted to the tropical Philippine climate and also to the Filipino way of living.

It was "Filipino Modern" in character of its day.

Birdfest

Ala, Kalahiri 4th Philippine Bird Festival will be held at the Puerto Princesa Tiabunan on Sept. 12-13. It will feature a photo exhibit of rare Philippine birds, as well as lectures and film showings.

The festival coincides with the start of the annual winter bird migration from mainland Asia and Japan.

For more information, contact sayaka@dossa.ph.

Terraces tour

Save the Rupay Terraces Movement (STTM) will hold the Bakhi Hangan Tour on Sept. 6-7.

Participants will witness the thanksgiving ritual in the rice terraces of Batchang, Kiangan, Ifugao province. There will also be eco-cultural tours.

For inquiries or bookings, see www.save-terraces.com, or contact simon711@gmail.com, or 09182029859.

E-mail feedback to pride.place@gmail.com.

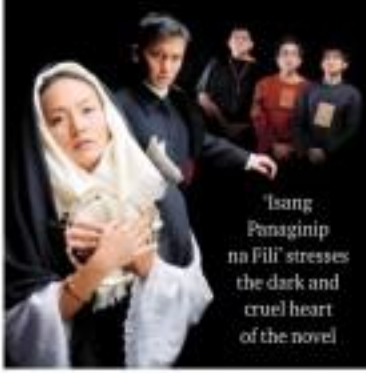
A BATANGAS beauty in this superb cluster.

EXTERIOR surfaces of Batangas cluster combine with bay windows, architectural projections, and arbitrating multi-layered roof.

IN THIS ISSUE
"King" is laid to rest/D2

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

A whole new way of looking at Rizal's 'Fili'



'Isang Panaginip na Fili' stresses the dark and cruel heart of the novel

IMAGINE THIS IMAGINE... The year is 1891, and an undersized Jose Rizal is in Paris trying to finish "El Filibusterismo." He is low on funds and is also short of a room.

He rooms with Tatiyong Ruben, a rabbit (Bartolo who is too busy having a good time to even know who his successor in the Rizal film is) finish the novel. Tatiyong is thrown into the plot and begins to act out the character of Simoun, the unlucky jeweler planning to throw society into chaos.

In Dulaang UP's "Isang Panaginip na Fili," the actor Rodolf Flor Quinsoc and CJ Javier, the already famil- iar plot of Rizal's novel is framed by the unlikely juxtapositions of Pepe Rizal, the conscientious reformist, and the destroyed Tatiyong Ruben, the unscientific filmmaker.

The new musical reborns the Fili's formative plot and cast of characters in its most basic elements. The unfold- ing of Rizal's themes of re- venge, of transformation and revelation, are told through the stories of following Tales, the tragic heroines Juli and Maria Clara, and the disillusioned Basilio.

"Isang Panaginip na Fili" stresses the dark and cruel heart of the novel. The cole

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SEASHAWAN Philippine National Folk Dance Company performs "Kilupatap," composed by Kasilag.

Imelda Marcos bids farewell to Kasilag: 'Ma'am, you are simply the best, and we love you'

SHORT documentary on the life and works of Lucrecia Kasilag is played during the mass on liturgical services at the CCP for the late National Artist.

'King' takes final bow of her CCP kingdom

By Pablo A. Tariman
Core Buzz

WITH HYMNS OF her own music filling the Cultural Center of the Philippines where she ruled unquestionably for 17 years, National Artist for Music and former Cultural Center of the Philippines president and artistic director Lucrecia R. Kasilag was given a final tribute by the country's foremost artists and cultural workers in Metro Manila's theological services last Thursday morning.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a message read by diwa Vilma Labrador of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), said Kasilag's legacy was "a wealth of musical compositions." She described Kasilag's output as "the music of our soul."

Kasilag's fellow National Artists braved cool rain before her casket—Napoleon Abueva and Arturo Luz (Visual Arts); F. Sionil José and Virgilio Almario (Literature); and Salvador Bernal (Theater Design).

NCCA executive director Leticia Gandoy-Alvarez called Kasilag the closest we have to modern

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos talks about her memories of Kasilag.

Filipiniana composer, a musicologist who could also be called the mother of Philippine music, and a researcher and writer who constantly reminded her that the music scholarship she got from the PWU during her student days was "a privilege."

"I was frequently absent from my class because of my obligation as Miss Manila, which was then ranked by controversy," Imelda recalled. "To me, Tita King is an outstanding human being, an outstanding friend and an even more outstanding artist."

She said Kasilag was behind the design of the CCP Bag. When she told her the CCP should have a Bag, Kasilag suggested the design should incorporate Imelda's all-repeated colors of 'the rose, the pearl and the beautiful.'

Marcos said she encouraged Kasilag from adopting the designs since "people were making fun of me."

But Kasilag pushed through with it, insisting the works of makers into Tagalog and quoted, telling them in the Bag with their own designs for the Kanjusons flag—with the initials written in ancient Filipino syllabary.

The CCP flag has continued to be used today and Marcos pointed to the giant CCP coat of arms that incorporated the design of the CCP Bag hanging above Kasilag's bier on the CCP stage.

Looking at the coffin of Kasilag, Marcos said, "Ma'am, you have always been a dear teacher, mentor and friend. Ma'am, you are simply the best, and we love you."

Kasilag kin

Responding for the Kasilag family were the nieces and nephews of the composer, led by Jorge Adelberto Kasilag Ochoa, who recalled first when they were young, they were all required by their aunt to take piano lessons as a prerequisite for a proper education.

"But years after, it became apparent that most of us didn't inherit an iota of our aunt's musical genius," he says. "But all throughout our family gatherings, we will remember her sense of humor and the times we would give her an ace to unravel our traditional envelope during Christmas time."

Seen nodding in the audience was Ildefonso Soliva, who, along with her sister Mazli, served as the Kasilag household for 35 years, nursing the Bing.

Among those who gave music and dance tributes were Ballet Philippines, which performed an excerpt from Kasilag's "Ang Kuwento" (music: Jesus Reyes Concio and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, which performed a movement from the composer's Divertimento for Piano and Orchestra; the Philippine Madrigal Singers, who sang Kasilag's "Pruthin si Yahweh"; and the PWU Philippine Music Ensemble, which performed Kasilag's arrangement of the Visayan folk song "Usok."

Benedictine Fr. Rodrigo Perez led the invocation and said Kasilag missed sense to the spiritual values of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. (Kasilag was also an oblate of St. Scholastica's College, run by Benedictine nuns.)

To the tunes of her orchestral opus, "Pantomina" from her "Philippine Scenes," Kasilag's coffin left the doors of the CCP for the last time, for her burial place at the Manila South Cemetery.

She had stated orders not to be buried at Libingan ng mga Bayani, which is the resting place for National Artists.

MWG Kasilag, niece of the Marcos no Artist, listens to National Commission for Culture and the Arts chair Vilma Labrador read President Macapagal-Arroyo's message to the Kasilag family.

MILITARY honors given to National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag.

PAYING out last rites for the cremation of Kasilag's coffin.

Sound of music, not war, in Mindanao

By Neil Pagsisihan
Core Buzz

TO SILENCE THE SOUNDS of war in some parts of Mindanao, Nathalia F. Primo opens the cultural season this weekend at Rodolfo Hall, the cultural center of Cagayan de Oro City, by presenting new waves in Philippine music.

Titled, "Pakawning New Voices," the voice concerts features 18-year-old Ayo Tantingan of the University of the Philippines in Diliman College of Music and 23-year-old Nondice Nirel of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music.

"They are a power-packed duo—these voices will create stillness in our souls and make us bow with poignant clarity the plea for peace of all our common humanity," says festival musical director Peter John Pantoja, a professor at the UST Conservatory of Music.

Nirel is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance under the tutelage of professor Jimmy Gilongo. He has performed in several concerts both as soloist and a lyric soprano with the UST Lirangkhan Vocal Ensemble.

He has also been part of several recitalists and opera, including "Bohan May Liwanag," a zarzuela by Dr. Jesse Dacanay; "Something to Grow About," a zarzuela by National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces; Jesse Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin"; and the operetta "Die Fledermaus," where he played the role of Dr. Blind.

He won first prize in the prestigious 2007 National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namyca) Voice Competition, Male Category C.

Mezzo

Tantingan is under the tutelage of professor Ms. Cecilia Dingdong Valetta of the UP College of Music.

Recently she was Philippine delegate to the 2008 Asean Youth Camp held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Her Cagayan repertoire: Mozart's "Sanct Maria"; Donizetti's "Chiquilla le sorte"; "O mio babbino caro" (from Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi"); "Quando m'en vo" (from Puccini's "La boheme"); "Habanera" from Bizet's "Carmen"; "La donna e mobile" (from Verdi's "Rigoletto"); Ishii' "Tahil sa Isang Bulaklak"; and Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig."

Nirel's repertoire include Johannsen's "Philimeg"; Leoncavallo's "Mattinata"; "Pesquet me revelle (from Massenet's "Werther"); St Gaynes's "O solo mio"; Jose Pedro's "Sa Tipay ng Dahon"; Santiago's "Pakiusap."

Frederico Hall is the first theater for the performing arts in Mindanao, inaugurated by Cultural Center of the Philippines president Nestor G. Jacalne and pianist Ingrid Sala-Santamaria in 2005. Federico Hall is named after lawyer Rodolfo and Elsa Pelaez, founder of Liceo de Cagayan University.

The year's Rodolfo Season includes concerts by the violinist and violin duo actor Coky Bolipata and accomplished flutist Jessy Jacot; theater performances by Repertory Philippines, which will bring "Bondays with Morrie" updated by Jose Enriquez and Miguel Sanchiancio under Freya artistic director Ruby Ibarrola; a colloquium on piano technique, "Pag-Iisa Dalit"; and film festivals of newly-won films in partnership with Instituto Cervantes and the European Commission.

NOMINEE Nirel

Highlight of the season is the Bituinan Theatre Festival under the artistic direction of Nestor Minoffin, with Lutgardo Seno, the National Commission for Culture and the arts.

"In Cagayan de Oro, we make art, not war," says Mozart Narciano, artistic director of Rodolfo Hall. "And all shows are free-of-charge to our students as part of our university mission. Of course, others may watch the shows by buying tickets or subscribing to the season."

Call (02) 8584897 to 99 local 240; e-mail rodolfohall@liceo.edu.ph.

'El Fili' ...

from page D1

of the new musical also reviews the issues for the production—the "Fil" as seen through a dream state of feverish creation, sensual decadence and social decay.

Imelda Makeza is the production's artistic coordinator. Of Cameron Sisters' artistic director Cholo Cruz is the production's choral director. Jason Quitazon is the musical arranger. Sue Manalo is the choreographer.

Tanya Bernardo is the set designer. Lethel Cantos is the lights designer. Brian Arda is the sound designer. Hesko Santillano is the graphic designer.

Alternating as Pepe are: Francisco Lauretti and Joel Molina, with Onyl Torno and Eric de la Cruz playing the part of Tonying.

Also in the cast are: Stella Cadiente, Ces Quesada, Rhynnart Pelaleo, Greg de Leon, Jacques Bodiam, Peter Serrano, JC Santos, JM de Guzman, Rhea Pineda, Delfino Buencamino, Annette Almabusa and the Joining UP ensemble.

"Sanay Dumaging ka Fil" opens on Sept. 20 and runs until Sept. 28 at the Rodolfo Hall, Ateneo Theatre, 20/F, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Call (02) 9261999, 4357840, 9433000 loc. 2449, (0922) 8265224 or (0917) 5.6.09.224. Or it www.upd.edu.ph."—dmp

UST Singers hold Europe tour

UST Singers at the UST Quadricentennial Square.

THE UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS Singers will tour Spain, Germany, Belgium and France starting this month and will be representing the Philippines in different choral festivals along the way. The group's 15th International Concert Tour is dubbed "Festival Europa."

The first stop will be at the Expo Zaragoza 2008, followed by the Semana Coral Internacional de Aldea, Sep. 29 to Sept. 7. The group will then proceed to the Jornadas Internacionales de Canto Coral "Ciudad de Burgos," Sept. 6 to 13. Participating choirs will be coming from Japan, Venezuela, Ukraine, Russia, France, Brazil, Argentina and Hungary.

The UST Singers will also be a part of the Mondello International Choral Festival in France, Oct. 31 to Nov. 7. But before that, they will be back in Manila after the tour of Spain for their concert on Oct. 16, at the Philamlife Auditorium, which is sponsored by the UST College of Education Alumni Association.

The UST Singers are a mixed choral ensemble composed of students and alumni from among the various colleges and faculties of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. Since 1981, the choir has become one of the most awarded Philippine choral groups abroad.

In 1995, the UST Singers were declared the Choir of the World in the world's oldest choral competition—at Wales (Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod). In 1998, it won the Gran Premio "Citta Di Ivrea" in Italy, earning the right to represent Gorizia at the 11th European Grand Prix of Choral Singing in Varna, Bulgaria.

They have reaped several awards from the Mixed Choirs Vera Wunderik in Ostrava, Czech Republic; the Montreux International Choral Festival in Switzerland, Tolosa 2002 in Netherlands, and the World Choral Festival in Puebla, Mexico. Founder and conductor is Fred Fidel Calalang, head of UST Conservatory of Music's Conducting Department. Recently, he was member of the international jury of the 2005 International Festival of Academic Choirs Competition in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

Former members of the group who are now based in the US have organized themselves into the UST Singers Alumni in America, participating in the recently concluded Idaho International Choral Festival, where they were wildly applauded. Log on to www.theusingers.blogspot.com.

UP Chorus in concert

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES Concert Chorus presents its concert-season opener, "UPbeat 4: The Korus Way," in celebration of the university's centennial year.

The concerts pays tribute to the performing group's 40 years of artistic excellence and versatility. Through the decades and across genres — from classic OPM masterpieces "Kay Gandu ng Aking Mahal" to the pulsating beats of "Dance Ati", from "Bohemian Rhapsody" to "Phantom of the Opera"... UP-CC weaves through the musical spectrum with seamlessness.

Conductor is Janet Salus Antonio.

The group give a rendition of Ney Rosauro's "Samba No," using a cajon alla with percussion.

"UPbeat 4" runs at the College of Engineering Theatre, UP Diliman, on Aug. 29, 7 p.m., and on Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets at P150 only. Contact 09154188826/09156281113 or e-mail at upcwebmaster@yahoo.com or visit www.upconcertchorus.org.

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THE Philippine Opera Company is expected to perform the sundrenched standard "Binalig Hanlon."

Philippine Opera Company's 'Harana' on Aug. 28

THE PHILIPPINE OPERA COMPANY, home of the country's premiere opera singers, proudly presents "Harana" on August 28, 2006, 8 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, ROBC Plaza, Makati City.

Featuring superstars Ana Feleo, Dindo Fernando, Rodel Gudiewel and Florence Aguilar with tenors, Glen Gastelum, Sherwin Sotoco and baritones Jack Sahid and Lawrence Atienza, "Harana" promises to take its audience to a spectacular musical journey showcasing the very best of Philippine music. From indigenous and pre-colonial to contemporary and modern, each musical number is theatrically presented with unbounded originality and visual excitement.

The superstar includes timeless classics like, "Bitiing Mirikit," "Sobid Ko Isang Sulukluk," "Pamuyan ng Bituing," "Ay, Gidlas Di Mina," "Soliano," "Ang Mutya," "Sino Kaya ang Kapalaran," "Hamdaric," "Ay Sulubaanay," "Waray-Waray," "Sa Kabukiran," "Manang Biday," "Ako Ca Pang Ibong Ang," "Polong Alindahaw," "Mana Ka Man Kanuway," "Gaano Ko Kana Kaiwalad," (Hindi Ako Mahiwa)" and many more.

"Harana" is Philippine Opera Company's newest addition to its exciting line up of show packages. The word "Harana" is the Tagalog name of a traditional form of courting in which a male wooer, a romantic affection by singing underneath her window. The rendition of each "Harana" suite is a product of thorough research with the commitment to preserve indigenous Philippine music and its appropriate dance and folklore. It also aims to reconstruct and enhance these research findings to evolve repertoires suited to the demands of contemporary theatre, and to promote international goodwill through performances at home and abroad.

Harana's artistic team is composed of Zenaida Gutierrez as costume designer, Mina Feleo as choreographer, Vina de Guzman as musical arranger.

Ticket prices are P1,000, P500 and P250. Call Bob Carpeña 8920786 or Ticketworld 8810999, or visit www.philippineopera company.com

PHILIPPINE Opera Company

French dances, global culture

By Elba Kristin R. Requiza
Contributor

FOR FRENCH SPICES IN MANILA THIS year, Alliance de Française brought in two dance companies "to promote the French culture in the Philippines."

But what audiences saw on two separate nights at the CCP were far from the usual idea of a glory most popularly known for its champagne and Christian Dior.

The cutsy "Frenchness" in Compagnie de Herrieu-Montalvo and Elba Jean seemed to end in the last (but both groups were established in France (1981 and 1998, respectively) and all the dancers speak the bargain-for-life language.

Both productions (both from more of over Asia and some parts of Europe and US) were more eager to show France's eclectic side as a melting pot of dance. Thirty were much-appreciated lessons of dances elements, including various cultural influences and dance styles.

HOOKED STILL Marcel Henry ogling Tukayo Dayoni

ENTERPRISING HIP-HOP Elba Cano in "Sakura"

Fun show

Compagnie Herrieu-Montalvo's "La Reina Fatiha de Rasura" at the CCP Main Theater was worth braving the rains, floods and winds for. And was it fun! Fun list.

In decidedly standtime 60s, eight performers in everyday wear indexed hip-hop, classical ballet, Afrikan and street dance with visual poetry and moved in time to Baroque sounds. Slo-mo photomontages and quirky instrument phrases all thrown on a manner-screen at the center of the stage.

The successful union of the dogs and (musical) reality (or bizarity) was heavy with irreverent from the Dada movement founded by Jean-Philippe de Rameau. It was an affectionate tribute by choreographers Herrieu-Montalvo and José Montalvo to the 18th-century composer.

While there was no actual story, Herrieu and Montalvo's intimate knighthow alluded to a bedroomy drama utopia (connoted by the background of blue sky and clouds) showed on the videos) as a way of saying that the onstage differences in dancing and movement could still bring people together.

Animals, both real and imaginary (and even!), also played a large part in the 50-minute performance, which had galloping horses, rabbits and rabbits, roaring lions, screaming peacocks, a giant swooping chickens, and an elephant balancing on a tight rope.

Of the surrounding members, Marcel Henry as a sly clown earned the most applause and had the audience leaving with laughter. At one point, the outwardly ogled a shirtless male dancer's physique and redirected herself to the audience by saying, *attention! Ithink you'r many times ducking but* highly amusing monologue on her love for dance.

Completing the interesting mix of playful spectacles were Afrikan dancer Tukayo Dayoni, classical ballerina Marjorie Manuntoya, street dancers Hammurah Feazel (electric boogaloo), Lady Stevenjoe (popping) and Dalderichardwerdes (locking), and "hip-hoppers" Bombalinz, Shinsanmed (breakdancing) and Rindo MC (human beatboxing).

Excessively soulful

Elba Jean's "Sakura, Land of Adventure" at the packed CCP Little Theater was nothing more or spectacular. Interpretative hip-hop has long been widespread among local audiences. But the dancers' excessively soulful movements combined with a highly-appreciative—and generally foreign—audience gave the one-hour performance an illusion that it was bigger than it actually was.

The show had a simple story: seven assistant (ok, in this performance because one dancer was injured) would endure equal bouts of joy and suffering in their quest to find a lost called Adrian, outlived being separated from one another.

Choreographer Ibrahim Hawks called Afrikan dance, contemporary energy, ego, hiphop, Isbilanar power with Cuban beats and new age music in the minimalist sheet of yarn dancing and lights (you an explorations of the big machine).

The result: Liquid-looking and sweeping movements adeptly executed with easy grace by shirtless Modi, Akeem, Lee, Mosaad, and Sylvyanne. (Jean blacked was supposed to be his wound).

Dressed in beige billowy long-sleeved shirts and baggy brown pants, they were made conservative, helicopters and sound eyeshadow that looked so effective and light.

The six chunky dancers were incredibly unmatched. They hardly moved in unison and their height differences were very obvious. Yet it didn't seem to matter in the end. They all earned applause after applause during the 20-minute curtain call.

DANCERS' UTOPIA Unifying contradictions and the stage

LIFESTYLE Arts Books

Why the Ramon Magsaysay Awards matter

STORY CONTINUED E2

Acclaimed Taiwan dance troupe in Manila date

CLOUD Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan

By Amanda Pia Guerrero
Contributor

BCHOLDS THE TROUPE HAS NOT performed in the Philippines, little is known about the Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan in this country except perhaps for the spectacular video folklore designs abroad.

But Cloud Gate, the cultural media learned recently, has been making waves in the international scene because of its unique and distinct Chinese style of movement, and its fusion of dance techniques and theatrical concepts from East to West.

It has toured with great success in Europe, Australia, and the Americas.

The company was founded in 1972 by Lin Hwai-Min, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Creative Communication Arts in 1990.

And now, on the occasion of the Ramon

ACCLAIMED E2

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Why the Ramon Magsaysay Awards matter

By Dante R. Mata
Contributor

THE BAROMETER OF ASIAN greatness is supposed to be the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the Manila-based recognition that, to its partisans lament, is more famous elsewhere in Asia than in its home.

Now 50 years old, the RM Awards are considered by a greater part of the Asian population as the ultimate recognition in the continent. Not so much the equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize as even greater than the Europe-based prize.

RM honorees, all 277 of them, including this year's eight awardees, have been addressing a wide range of human development issues often amid very adverse circumstances.

This year's winners are the Philippines' Grace Padaca (government service) and the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (public service); Thailand's Thanakhan Kingsuwan (also for public service); India's Prafulda Desai and Mamidikudi Manor (community leadership); Indonesia's Ahmad Syafii Maarif (peace and international understanding); Hino Ichi from Japan (journalism, literature, and creative communication); and Ananda Galappatti of Sri Lanka (emergent leadership).

They will be conferred on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Padaca is recognized for empowering voters of Isabela province to reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing, and to contribute to full governance in their own development.

The CARD-MRI, meanwhile, has provided over 1.5 million poor half-a-million poor women and their families in the Philippines.

Duncan has provided the poorest segments with inexpensive, practical, and comfortable artificial limbs made out of recycled plastic.

Meanwhile, the Asian couple helped enhance the capacity of the Muslim Good Office of Indis in using positively to the communities' ties through banking and teaching.

Maarif, a retired leader of one of Indonesia's biggest Muslim organizations Muhammadiyah, has dedicated his life in preaching religious tolerance and fostering that terrorism is not the authentic face of Islam.

Ichi is cited for his principled career as a publisher and his attempts to put discriminatory practices, human rights, and other difficult subjects squarely in Japan's public discourse. He is the first Japanese to win in the category since 1973.

Galappatti is a Cambridge-trained psychologist whose spirited personal commitment have brought appropriate and effective psychosocial services to victims of war, tsunami and natural disasters in Sri Lanka.

The awardees will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President Magsaysay, and $50,000.

RMAF president Carmencita Abella described the winners as pathfinders who dared view-wise to address pressing people, politics, livelihood, and health in their societies. Our seven laureates look in the immense potential of people and social institutions for renewal and reform.

For its 50th year, the RMAF is doing an impact study. Cynthia Bautista, who heads the study project, said that the study would seek to trace the evolution of the awards and assess where the awardees are now and what further contributions they have made after being recognized.

Video series

A video series, Ripples of Change, documents the achievements of the laureates. It shows how awardees have been guided by the two "powerful truths" according to the Magsaysay vision: That making significant improvements require a sea-change in mind sets, systems, and cultures in Asian societies and the region as a whole; and the humbling acknowledgment that all meaningful change begins in some very concrete and specific circumstance, often quietly and inconspicuously, until the initiative gathers force and momentum, resulting in no larger and more profound impact.

The video documentary series, Democracy and Good Governance, has so far featured Aruna Roy of India (community leadership, 2000); Jesus Estevez of the Philippines (government service, 2001); Shah Nine Bonn of Bangladesh (public service, 2006); Kiran Bedi of India (1994); Sheila Coronel of the Philippines (journalism, literature, and creative communication arts, 2003), and Teten Masduki of Indonesia (public service, 2004).

Also for the 50th anniversary this year, the RMAF will hold Asia Forum: Inclusive Development Conference (Charting Asia Forging Partnerships, Building Institutions) on Aug 25-26 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Magsaysay honorees from 21 Asian countries will participate in the forum, as well as senior business leaders, and representatives of international development assistance organizations, multilateral institutions. Development NGOs, research and academic institutions, governments, and media.

Another highlight this year is the first-ever Ramon Magsaysay performance of Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theater (see related article).

Over all, the 50th anniversary celebration of Asia's most important award is expected to reaffirm the vision of the award as glimpsed from the example of the late Philippine president after whom the recognition is named: greatness of spirit with movement and change.

E-mail the author at dramo@philyo.com

DR. AMARASINGHE T. Ariyaratne, founder of Sri Lanka's largest people's organization, builder of poor communities.

AT HER own expense, retired Dr. Gao Yaojie of China (right) wrote and published brochures on AIDS prevention and distributed them herself in less restrictive areas. At left is Chang Yu.

The award is Asia's most important recognition, but Filipinos don't seem to care

DR. JIANG Yanyong of China, "hero of the SARS epidemic"

PRAYER "Among them Maha of Thailand took the initiative to build a school for poor children, believing that education is the path to a brighter future.

Book series tells of tales of Asian 'greatness of spirit'

By Angelina G. Galang
Contributor

NOT TOO LONG AGO, A YOUNG man would go to a building in the Diliman district of Quezon City and he accepted by security guards at the entrance. Shod in rubber slippers and lugging a torn sack, he would eventually be let into the premises after tight screening.

His destination was the Asian Development Foundation, and his purpose: to meet founding Board member Indigenous peoples, among whom he studied and whose simple way of life he had embraced. The late sack held his computer's CPU, which he brought to the social offices to print the documents that would present his case.

The man is Benjamin Abadiano, who would later receive the 2004 Ramon Magsaysay (RM) Award for Emergent Leadership.

Today he is president of Asmi, he calls it home. There he was able to propagate further his advocacy for a more humane and fair drug-rehabilitation-based education and health care, for indigenous Filipinos, as well as communities in war-torn areas of Mindanao.

The man-to-man-but-his gun became with the building society gained a cornerstone piece: Abadiano himself brings up with relish, squarely with the staff of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF). It's a gentle joy at his beginnings.

Pitching his sibling following retirement work among the Manobo of Bukidnon and the Mangyans of Mindoro, the anthropology graduate of Silliman University in Cagayan de Oro went on to establish the Tugdan Mangyan Center for Learning and Development, Bawgan Center for Peace and Development, and the Panalipdan Center for Indigenous Peoples. In 2001, fame moved him to be the executive coordinator of Talang Mindanao.

Recognition was further from his mind, but he acknowledges that the Magsaysay Award has been a

BENJAMIN Abadiano's culture-based educational programs for indigenous Filipinos have been adopted by the Department of Education.

50th anniversary

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Magsaysay Award, named in memory of the late president who was a beloved and admired exemplar of honest, dedicated public service. In its more than 250 recipients who keep Magsaysay's example alive, the award is both an honor and a responsibility. It is not an end, it is a means to do more.

"A record month of service and another" was how Dr. V. Shanta, chairman of the public service, put it in a reflection paper she read at the latest annual conference of awardees, held last November in Clement, India.

She told the RMAF board of trustees that the award inspired "a certain sense of trust" to the Chennai Cancer Institute, which she heads as their. The number of patients, especially among the poor, has more than doubled, and the challenge now was to be able to maintain the institute's state-of-the-art treatment and to offer pay that would keep its finished top-caliber staff from seeking greener pastures.

Dr. Mangsaysay T. Sulpatrom, 1966 community leadership awardee, said the RMAF was the first international body to give recognition to his work. He founded the Sarawayan Silonganon movement, Sri Lanka's largest people's organization the concept he which drawn from Buddhist and Gandhian thinking.

Other awards followed, as more partner agencies provided resources for volunteer work, which helped poor communities tap their potential in rebuild their communities. The Sanskrit phrase Sarvodaya Shramadana means the "awakening of all" through "sharing of one's physical or mental labor." The movement may well have led the way for Habitat for Humanity and Ground Kalinga, also a Magsaysay awardee.

In Thai community conbor Prayong Unongchum-Pinto (1979, public service), the award is "a thrill" even which crosses all faiths, colors, and income levels and shows a way forward."

It enabled her to set up a foundation, which formalized her work with slum dwellers, particularly low paying jobs, to also get them to the second tier ensuring a freezer unit in 1997 and, on a personal note, her meeting the Japanese social worker who became her husband.

She gained that winning at a young age (26) had greater impact than embarrassing others. She is already established. Young awardees, she said, stand to benefit more from the award, a sentiment shared by Abadiano, who cited the need for awards for the youth, especially in those troubled down brought with balance of leadership.

Greatness of spirit

While the awardees epitomize greatness of spirit, the virtue can be nurtured in every individual, Abadiano said. After all, he added, "greatness of spirit" simply means doing ordinary things in extraordinary way, passionately and with a commitment to make the lives of others more just and humane.

In wrapping the honor, Magsaysay awardees also take on a mission to pursue their work with more courage than ever, for the times, in full view of the international community.

The Magsaysay Awardees' lives are a wellspring of stories of courage, compassion, inspiration and hope. Those stories are preserved in a situation-related book, Profiles of Courage of Asia, to published by RMAF and Anvil Publishing. A booklaid of former RMAF communications officer Lourdes Morada-Ofilan, it brought together an editorial team composed of three-kind editors, three deputy editors and seven writers from broadcasting, academe, and the corporate world.

At the time of this writing, the book series has included Anvil a fourth in the finale for the Asian Publishing Awards, from a field of 79 entries, according to Anvil's Karina Bolasco.

Acclaimed Taiwan dance troupe in Manila date

From page E1

Magsaysay Awards Foundation's (RMAF) 50th anniversary, Cloud Gate will perform at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Aug. 29-31, 8 p.m. This was announced during a recent press conference at the CCP. The performances are presented by the RMAF, the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce, and the Ayala Group of Companies.

At the premiere, director Chris Millado of the CCP said that watching Cloud Gate "is not merely watching dance. It's some sort of meditation, an experience. They are inspired by classic eastern philosophers and they merge it into the contemporary present-day modern age."

He added, "They were sold out in New York. It was difficult to get tickets there."

At the CCP Cloud Gate, named after an ancient Chinese ritual dance, will present its signature work, "Moon Water," to the music of Ed Sarath's "Six Gates for Solo Cello." Running time is one hour and ten minutes, with no interval.

The work is inspired by a Buddhist proverb ("Flowers in a mirror and moon on the water are both illusory"), and by the ideal state of Tai Chi practitioners ("energy flows as water, while the spirit shines as the moon").

"Moon Water" is a black and white production, the stage floor covered by black marbles and the dancers clad in billowing white silk, moving as if in a trance; their arms appear to be floating. Eventually, the floor will be covered by water.

A 14-minute excerpt from this work was shown during the press con, and one could immediately sense the discipline and rigor-mortis exuded in the interpretations of the Liu creation. One fell under the spell of the work, although it was "only" a brief video showing.

The training of the Cloud Gate dancers includes ballet, modern dance, and Beijing opera movements. They practice meditation and martial arts, with great emphasis on breathing.

As choreographer Lin Hwi-Min is also a creative writer) poetically put it: "We are waves rolling in the sea. We are mountains, strong yet silent. We are circles spinning into infinity. Our hands are our wheels, as we turn in circles, bending low."

During the press con, RMAF president Carmencita Abella quipped: "It took 50 years to bring Cloud Gate here. It might take another 50 years for the company to return."

CLOUD Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan

In my father's house, there are many

By Shirley O. Lua
Contributor

MOVES, OUTFITS, AND MOVES

For the initial good-airings of its 22nd season, Tanghalang Pilipino can please us with a daring choice: "Golden Child" by Asian American dramatist David Henry Hwang.

Hwang is best known to his Tony Award-winning "M. Butterfly," He has won the Obie Awards three times for his plays: "FOB" (1981), "Golden Child" (1997), and "Yellow Face" (2007).

"Golden Child" opens with a familiar device. Andrew Kwong, expecting a child from his third wife, is visited by the ghost of his Grandmother Ahn, who relates to him the story of her own father, Eng Tong Bin. Her memory unfolds in a flashback.

It is 1918. Father returns home from one of his frequent business trips to the Philippines. His home is having Chinua, whom he lives with three wives. And he drops a bomb. He intends to become "born again."

By embracing Christianity, Father attempts to venture into what he deems "modern" and "individual." He is willing to encounter any "traditional" practice, like ancestral/image worship, as lost-heeling.

Post-bleeding in an old custom in China which dictates that women should have small and bounded feet. Mr Lian Bowers, young girls were thus subjected to the excruciating process of having their feet bandaged for years until they formed the desirable shape that men hankered for.

Can a man easily relinquish such practices bespeaking a cultural heritage as dear and as wide as the Yellow River? A man would need courage to stand up against staunch resistance from his own family and community. A man needs wisdom to know "what to keep and what to change."

When Father orders the unbinding of Ah Ah Ahnis Feet, he is confronted by his First Wife. She fears him: "Would you marry a woman with unbound feet?"

For a moment, Father is stunned into silence. This is not merely a question of man's fashion sense, but of the respected patriarchal position that Father represents in his community.

The state of the house then struggles against feudalistic and ancestral obligations, for "in the house of the ninth [he] is always a child."

Liberal triumph?

The play seems to suggest that embracing Christianity is a sign of "modernity," and that Father's "conversion" is the effect of his business sojourn to the Philippines, which was then under American colonial rule. It seems to conclude that the act of baptism, often unclear counted the paradigm of a British missionary, is a sign of the unfolding of feudalistic strongholds. Does this signify the eventual triumph of Western liberal practices? Do we unequivocally reject her with underlayers?

Father's conversion to "modernity" and "individuality" could be more plausible if the play provides a lucid picture of the socio-political conditions brewing within the China of 1920s. With the death of the dynastic rule and the birth of a new republic, China entered a new phase via the New Culture Movement (aka May Fourth Movement, c 1915-1925), which sought to eradicate old cultural norms, calling for a modern concept of reform that employed scientific and liberal methods. Set against this background, Father's move toward "modernity" will be acceptable.

Hwang's story can be personal, or familial, but ultimately it serves as a microcosm of a greater China on the brink of transformation and its struggles to yield to futurity in the form of the "Western" while sanctioning certain traditions. China must be wise to know "what to keep and what to change."

Despite the seriousness and gravity of the play's topic and issues, Hwang's script is laden with strong, biting lines. Most fascinating are the scenes when the three wives come together and exchange barbs. We witness an exquisite battle of wit and power.

The three actresses playing the three wives are incomparable. Irma Adlawan, Dhenniza (as the FIRST WIFE) is, indeed, one of the finest actresses of Philippine theatre. In that play she dissects Mercedes Barcelon (Second Wife) and Tina Chiliy (Third Wife), who holds sway as her hand the husband's eyes. Despite her resistance, she cannot be underestimated. Her "humility is power."

With three formidable women in the

(CONTINUED E2)

RETURNING from the Philippines where he made his fortune, Eng Tong Bin (Ian Adlawan) is welcomed home in China by his daughter (Teresa Jamilla) and three wives (Jaya Barcelon, Irma Adlawan and Tina Chiliy).

TRADITIONAL Chinua, as represented by the three wives, is overwhelmed by Daniel Henry Hwang's "Golden Child."

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Masterpieces of silent cinema to be shown

By Doctor R. Micha
Contributor

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL Silent Film Festival will unveil starting tomorrow at the Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City.

The festival, which runs until Sept. 8, is organized by Instituto Cervantes, Goethe-Institut, Japan Foundation Manila, and the embassies of the Czech Republic, France and Italy. Screenings are scheduled at 7 p.m.

The intrinsic charm of silent films has transcended time and the organizers of the festival is no authentic as it can ever get, the screenings will be accompanied by powerful live musical scoring.

The festival begins

Aug. 16 with Spanish director Benito Perojo's 1926 film "The Black Man with a White Soul" (El negro que tenia el alma blanca). It revolves around a black dancer, dancer of slaves who settles in Madrid as a servant of an aristocratic family.

Escaping to avoid racial treatment from a household member, he makes a new life among the dancers who animate the nightlife of cabarets and travels to Paris, hoping to make a name for himself in the process. The film will be accompanied by a live vocal arrangement by the Hero Concordance Chorale, conducted by Amelia Tan.

Kenji Mizoguchi's 1930 drama "Gateway of White Threads" (Shiki No Shimiten), with music by Bob Avis, will be shown Aug. 27.

Based on the 19th-century novel written by Ryoka Izumi Kyoka Izumi, the film tells the story of a strong-willed sister magician who travels around the Hokuriku district with her sister until she meets a timid boy named Kinya Murakoshi for whom she falls in. Shizuko ends up sacrificing her own happiness to provide for the man she loves.

"FACES of Children"

On Aug. 28, the 1929 Czech film "Erotikon" will be shown. It examines the moral consequences of a night of unbridled passion between a Prague playboy George, and a perverted midseminarist's daughter. Directed by Gustav Machaty, this intertitle-by-intertitle film will be shown on Aug. 28.

French director Jacques Feyder's 1920 film "Faces of Children" will be shown on Sept. 1.

Jean is an 11-year-old boy brutalized by the tragic loss of his mother and his father's decision to remarry only months after the death. Unable to accept his new mother and the daughter she brings with her, Jean becomes antagonistic but is later plagued by his conscience. "Visages d'enfants" will have music by Jack Ruhs.

In the format film "The Oyster Princess" (Die Austernprinzessin), a pampered American opens (poses decides to find a prince to marry his daughter. Things don't go as planned as mishaps, misunderstandings...not to mention an amusing haircut sequence—happen along the way. This 1919 silent Lubitsch comedy will be scored live by Neil Antillo on Sept. 3.

The last music screening presents the 1916 Italian classic "Cabiria" by Giovanni Pastrone.

The film tells the story of a girl, Cabiria, who is separated from her parents during the Punic Wars in the 3rd century BC. As the journeys through ancient Rome, she is captured by pirates and witnesses the eruption of Mt. Etna, the barbaric splendor of Carthage, and Hannibal crossing the Alps. The film will be accompanied by music from DJ Caliph of Anchipo. 6.

Aside from the above-mentioned screenings, there will also be additional screenings of more of the films with their original score at 5 p.m. on Aug. 29 and Sept. 5-6 at Listening in Style, S/L Shangri-La Plaza. Admission to the screenings in Listening in Style is free but seating is limited.

The event is hosted by Listening in Style, ACCeL, the embassy of Japan and Institut Français de Cinematographie (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière). The International Silent Film Festival brings silent films from Spain, Japan, Germany and Italy to the Philippines.

Cinemaniacs can look forward to more cultural enriching events at the Shangri-La Plaza with the Cine Europa and the Asian Italian Film festivals coming soon, stay tuned for more updates. Manuel Dualan.

"We'd like to make going to Shangri-La Plaza a more pleasurable enabling experience by bringing the nations closer to the area," she says. "We also want to give moviegoers a chance to see the best in international cinema."

Adding to that experience is the introduction of the E-Asia Club Membership. Members are entitled to a point-based reward system card that can be used for on-site and off-site ticket purchases.

It promises to give members unique convenience as it allows cinema-goers to purchase tickets in advance via the web or texting reservations in advance through the E-Asia Club Members' Hotline 6334728.

Members will also benefit by special discounts on private bookings in the Cineplex's Premiere Theatre while every movie ticket purchase qualifies for reward points that can be redeemed for tickets, popcorn, soda or parking coupons.

Call 6334207 or visit http://www.shangrilaplaza.com.

"EROTIKON"

"CASCADING White Threads"

"THE OYSTER Princess"

In my father's house . . .

Turn to page K7

shows, the actor who plays Father must be a Dragon to stand his own ground. Thus, it is a joy to see Archie Acuña, who won to the Blas V. Theater's Manila production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio," in the title of the patriarch.

Shifting from grandmother to child music becomes tough for Ms. Teresa Jamias, who plays Abe, old and young. Her performances, though competent, has to be more persuasive.

The clever direction of "Golden Child" is Lay Arevalo, who received an Obie citation for his direction of Ma'N' Theater's "The Romance of Magno Rubio."

Arevalo also designed the elegant production of "Golden Child." Spaces and sentences are defined and bordered by lovely curtains and screens patterned with delicate jusi-cuts. These works a mood of formality and sophistication, reminiscent of something ancient and grand.

Tanghalang Pilipino's "Golden Child" is showing at CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater) until the end of August, with selected shows in Filipino version.

New bio highlights Manila Grand Opera Hotel

A NEW BIOGRAPHY ON THE RAGUTOcrichs life of businessman-philanthropist Antonio L. Cabangon Chua will be launched during the Aug. 30 blessing and inauguration of the 250-room luxury Manila Grand Opera Hotel at Chinatown.

Authored by award-winning writers Jose F. Lacaba and Eric S. Caruncho, the 210-page book traces the life's history of Cabangon Chua, founder of the Fortune Group which now businesses ranging from insurance, banking and finance to media, health care, hotels, car dealership and property development.

"A typical poor-boy-made good, he pulled himself out of poverty by his own sweat, striving hard to make a success of every enterprise he ventured," says Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales in his foreword of the book, "The Continuing Saga of Success."

The color-printed biography, done off the press, is a sequel to an earlier version printed by Publicist Artist Nick Joaquin.

It contains pictures, one of which showed Cabangon Chua's late mother, Dominga, at her tobacco farm; these buildings owned by the businessman's in Makati city were ruined.

In commissioning the book, printed by Fortune Group subsidiary Brown Madonna Printing Press, Cabangon Chua says he wants to motivate and inspire those who want to embark on their own journey of success.

"I want to share my experiences with young people. I believe that if you work hard and persevere, you have a good chance to succeed," the businessman, a major supporter of humanitarian projects, says. He once served as ambassador to Laos, the Philippines' partner in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Conversations: officials, including Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, business leaders and literary figures are expected to grace the book's launch during the opening of the Manila Grand Opera Hotel.

The only luxury hotel in Chinatown, the eight-storey Manila Grand Opera Hotel designed by Cesar Concio Interior Design Consultants headed by architect Rafael B. Tuason stands on the former site of historic Manila Opera House, venue of stage plays such as zarzuela, vaudeville and carnivals from mid-1800s to the early 1900s.

PAULI Gamboa, ACCF trustee; Patricia Bayon, ACCF trustee; Nimi Manuel-Isa, 2008 ACCF Silverlens fellow; Isa Lorenzo, Silverlens founder; ACCF donor Raja Laurel, ACCF trustee; Maribel Ongpin, ACCF president; and Tess Ramos, ACC program representative.

Asian Cultural Council grantees named

THE ASIAN CULTURAL COUNCIL (ACC) Philippines recently announced its 2008 grantees in a press luncheon held in Milky Way Restaurant along Shaw Road, Makati City.

Grantees are Nils Akaha (music), Edgardo Manuel (theater), Grace Nono (music), Jose Jay B. Cruz (theater), Clodualdo Alaska Llana (painting/sculpture), Cherry Mae Navarrete (cinema/ photography), Elmer Cruz (painting/ sculpture).

The Asian Cultural Council established the Philippines Fellowship Program in 2000 to offer more opportunities for artists, scholars, and cultural practitioners in the Philippines to participate in its grant programs.

Through the Philippines Fellowship Program, the ACC awards grants to individuals and cultural institutions in the Philippines for international exchange activities. Fields of award include anthropology, architecture / design, history, and theory / art administration, art criticism, art history, conservation, crafts, dance, design, film and video, interdisciplinary, music, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and theater.

For more information about the ACC and its grants program, call 7578066.

ENTERTAINMENT

Julia Sneza G. Velarde

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Sexy Dingdong devoted to his girlfriend, Karylle** Overheard /G1
- **Christine Reyes fires back at Carlene Aguilar** Dollywood /F4

EXPELLED scholars Bea Molina and Christian Almar were dismissed by being an-ram 24/7.

Psychology of expulsion

Counselor Randy Dellosa evaluates 4 PDA castoffs

FEEDBACK

Our kids in reality shows

Rhona Mu-ozoz
St. de Leon

I write as a concerned mother and a graduate of Early Childhood Education, because of the proliferation of reality shows on TV. While there's nothing ... extremely wrong with these programs, my opinion is pretty good to the kids being exploited. I particularly refer

HEADLO /C

By Raynel San Diego jr.
Photos by Joseph Aguilar

YES, THERE'S LIFE after "Pinoy Dream Academy."

In an exclusive e-mail interview, Randy Dellosa, guidance counselor and resident psychologist on the ABS-CBN reality talent search told Inquirer Entertainment that the show's expelled contestants are "doing well, so far."

Dellosa compared the scholars' stint on the show to "being thrown into the fire of rigorous training and fierce competition."

He explained, "It's only in experiencing [this] heat ... that they can grow as seasoned performers."

PDA, he pointed out, "is a journey of self-discovery and personal growth" for the contestants.

Expelled scholars Christian Almar, Apple Abarquez, Bea Molina and Sunny Malinata were to have bounced back, said the counselor.

(All three camefh get a sit-down session with Dellosa right after.)

"Sunny is happy to be reunited with her family," Dellosa said. "Shets also looking forward to her surgery [to remove a cyst in her vocal cord] and to thinking of becoming a model."

Both Abarquez and Molina, Dellosa reported, are going for about pursuing their show biz careers. "They are excited about the offers."

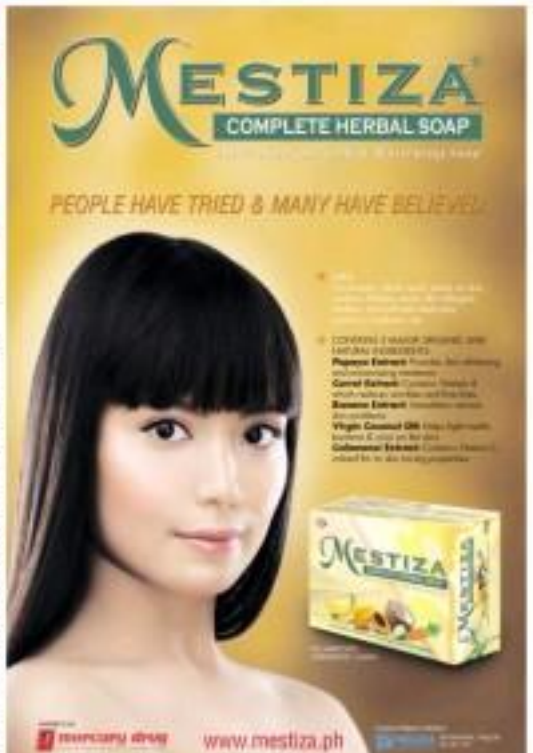
Almar is determined to finish college, Dellosa said. "He has gained a wealth of knowledge that he now applies to his work as dubber for radio and TV shows."

Almar told the Inquirer in a sit-down interview that he does some stock for animated shows like "Ninja Hot Shots," "Ngi-Ngisters" and "Cyborg 009."

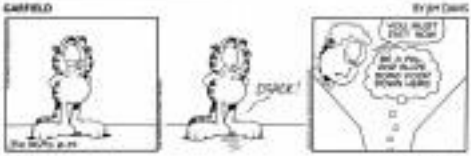
Almar said his session with Dellosa allowed him to thresh out several personal issues, aiming them the discrimination he experienced as a midget and his troubled relationship with his alcoholic father.

"Never akong nagpaawa ng amin ng loob [I never kept it to myself]," Almar said.

PSYCHOLOGY /C1



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN — By Jose Lipana

TULDOK — By Hans Coll

FUSAO BARDY — By M. Junior

DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Rabalena

MANGKOMIKS — By Jomike Tejido

SALAMIN — By Darwin Perez

BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott

ATOMO AND WEBBY — By Lyra Garcia Lanyo

LEVEL HOOVES — By Elizabeth D. Hongco

RIKO MACHINE — By Mark Abeja

BEN — By David Hilton

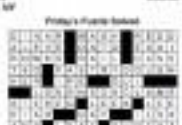
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Capital city of Iraq
6 "The Consul" composer
10 Hitchhike shoulder
14 Product in colored grains
17 Private eye's org.
18 U.S. miniature schnauzer
19 Predatory bird
20 ___ up (worked)
21 Hindu deity's mention
23 Cry to fall asleep
25 Classic sedan
27 Fibrous purchase
28 Outdoor/indoor resident?
29 Nobelist Hesse
30 Seesaw-causing
32 Holding exclusive
34 Up to the calendar
35 Drivers-ed fear
36 Paparazzo
37 Sesame
40 Cheese segments
42 Big leads
46 "The Lion King" character
48 Rice cooker, maybe
49 Cyrano's nose, e.g.
50 Lumberjack's tree-man duo
51 Lyric or North
52 Ideological extremes
53 Spirit
62 Commemorative
63 Holding tools
64 Home connection
65 Trustworthy

DOWN
1 Workplace communications
2 Bottlenecked
3 "Right to remain silent" warning
4 Cable fare
5 Connectivity
6 Turkish capital
7 Kahlua ingredient
8 "BRAZIL" director Terry
9 Bar over
10 "Pet Matrix"
11 Mine and mine
12 Hair-dryer
13 1982 U.S. Open winner
14 Reminder, perhaps
15 Decreases
16 1967 Kansas Cargo movie
22 Hang-over
24 Rocks
26 Wedding decision
28 Rocks
29 Ballet bar
31 Dry
33 Commemorative gift
34 Tennis great Arthur
36 Sandwich
38 Cliff plant seeds
40 Shackle
41 California city
43 Parts of swing
44 Lumberjack's employers
47 Incident counter-
51 Plant part
52 Aircraft surveillance acronym
53 Salesman's drive that went on forever, maybe
55 Tree-lover
56 Pizza serving
57 Ignited

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

Friday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU WERE TORN between what you want and what you feel. None of you have romantic issues to deal with. You're either single and you have an intelligent mind. Pay attention when others advise you. Personality problems of your friends could affect you. This week you will study or learn something important in order to prepare for next year—one of the most important for success in your life.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) Your love life is the center of attention this week. Don't let your head get in the way of your heart. Do yourself a favor and set the right tone for your personal life.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20) Be more proactive about your career. Be more flexible, positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Aries (March 21–April 20) Your finances will be stressful this week. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Taurus (April 21–May 20) You have many loans to finance, and avoid unnecessary spending. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Gemini (May 21–June 20) Your communication skills will be important now. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Cancer (June 21–July 22) Your communication skills will be important now. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22) Your finances will be stressful this week. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Your love life is the center of attention this week. Don't let your head get in the way of your heart. Do yourself a favor and set the right tone for your personal life.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22) Work on improving your communication skills. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) Your love life is the center of attention this week. Don't let your head get in the way of your heart. Do yourself a favor and set the right tone for your personal life.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) Your finances will be stressful this week. Don't let others get you down. Be more positive, sporty and generous with others. It's your turn to work on yourself.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) Your love life is the center of attention this week. Don't let your head get in the way of your heart. Do yourself a favor and set the right tone for your personal life.

CONCEPTS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dana Cleave

2	1	4	8					7
			4		9			1
				6				3
	3		6		2		5	9
		6				7		
4	9		5		8		1	
6				1				
3			2		7			
8					6	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★

4/11

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Type and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	7	1	4	6	8	9	3	5
8	5	4	7	2	9	1	6	3
3	6	9	1	5	3	2	4	7
7	9	8	3	1	5	4	2	6
1	4	5	6	4	2	7	9	3
4	3	2	9	7	6	8	5	1
6	1	8	2	3	4	5	7	9
9	2	3	5	8	7	6	1	4
5	4	7	8	9	1	3	6	2

'Too sexy' Avril show goes on

KUALA LUMPUR—MOLAY that authorities have reversed their decision to cancel a concert by Canadian pop-rock star Avril Lavigne, saying Saturday that the can perform next week despite complaints they are to "too sexy."

The Attc. Sultan and Heritage Ministry sparked an outcry among fans when, earlier this week, it cancelled Lavigne's Aug. 29 show, saying it was unsuitable for Malaysian culture and might disrupt independence day celebrations next month.

Minister Mustafa, the ministry's secretary-general, said Saturday that authorities decided after talks with concert organizers that Lavigne "has to the show" next week, though the government would still have preferred a different date.

Minister declined to give a specific reason for the initial decision, but he said organizers told the government that thousands of tickets had been sold and the cancellation could hurt tourism.

The youth wing of a fundamentalist opposition group, the Pan Malaysian Islamic Party called for the show to be cancelled, saying Lavigne's performance were "scandalous too sexy" for the Muslim-majority nation. But officials ignored the party's influenced flesh decision.

The 20-year-old Lavigne, whose hits include "Complicated" and "Girlfriend," is launching her month-long Asia tour in Kuala Lumpur. She is due in Manila Sept. 1.

AP

CANADIAN singer Avril Lavigne.

BECOMING a professional singer is still the goal of Apple Alcampo (left). Bossip Malando is now considering modeling.

Psychology . . .

From page F1

For her part, Abarquez said she first sighed her session with Dellosa.

"He made me see the total picture," Abarquez related. "I was glad to hear him say I've remained sane in spite of everything."

She admitted that she was completely unprepared for the reality show format. Being on-cam (and subject to public scrutiny 24/7) daunted her.

"It took a lot of adjustments," Abarquez conceded. "In the first week, it was as if I was floating."

"It was nerve-wracking," Mulani agreed. "At first, I was afraid that I couldn't be myself. But, according to the Family, I remained true throughout my stay. In my case, the word pleads well in my vocabulary."

Dellosa summed up the Dreamers' journey, thus: "Obviously, some scholars grow more closely and more about psychological help than others. The important thing to remember is that everyone is a 'work in progress' and that we all have our own psychological blocks, severe fears and issues (struggles) to overcome."

On Saturday, Bobi Ting joined Abarquez, Mulani, Alexes and Mahendra in the roster of outcasts, however (which Pep Palma also left because her task on the show I've value the last of the performances," according to the HM web site) was done.

Email: bigcrimeselfie@hotmail.com

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Cubao CARNIVAL

SEMI-RACE	BIG STAN	STAR WARS	TOROTOT	SEMI-RACE
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30	12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
STAR WARS Digital	WELL D	DOBOL TROBOL	LOVING YOU	A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	4:45 / 9:15	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30	12:00 / 4:00 / 8:00 / 9:00	12:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 7:30 / 9:45
	ZOMAN			
	1:30 / 10:00			

ARANETA CENTER EVENTS

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Feedback

From page F1

to "Philippine Dream Seekers Unite Dreamers." The July 19 episode broke my heart. It was the first time an aspirant was voted out. It swept in frustration. What should contain of these "wannabe" kids do?

1) Allow [illegible] to the elder and his talent, to himself, despite what happened. Better yet, do that was about, so he can live what happens. So will still be loved.

2) Don't stupidly [illegible] by making him feel [illegible] it's [illegible] you don't words it.

3) Encourage him to join in explore oth[illegible] activities—sports, arts, theater, the army, surprise you, and [illegible] self-worth.

4) Give him time and space to "grieve"—That evening's host, Nikki Gil, says saying, "It's ok. It's ok." It is not okay for the child. Hosts should be properly briefed about empathy.

5) Give yourself time to heal, too. The easy to [illegible] sucker as much as your child.

RUFA Mae Quinto with her leading men in "Single" (from left) Jon Avila, Rafael Rosell, Alfred Vargas, Paolo Contis and Mark Bautista

Cristine Reyes fires back at Carlene Aguilar

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER WORD war is escalating between Dennis Trillo's ex Carlene Aguilar and his current GF Cristine Reyes. Carlene accuses Cristine of calling her child with Dennis in her interviews.

"Immune siya eh ako ay nag siya lami lait ni Den sa interview niya," fumed Cristine. "Pero interview niya ng pa-interview ng mean-eh ako. Kung gusto niya magpapansin, wag niya gamitin si Den at ang anak nila. Tinatakot niya pa ata si Den na magpapa-interview din para di siya tirahin ng press."

What can she say about Carlene's comment that she will allow Calix to meet only the girl that Dennis will marry?

"Sa kung gusto, malipat ko na pala mukhain ang anak nila. Please!"

Whoa! She's (boo! woman) fear her now!

Rufa Mae's hunks

Rufa Mae Quinto had the time of her life in Canada. "Sa totoo lang, hindi ako OPAN sa napuntahan ko. Not just an action but also as a concert artist," Pele beamed. "Kaya nila sa town at show namin si Sharlla Sanchez, Paolo and Allan K."

In her heart equally busy with Canadian admirers? "Dami nake pa pero sleeping beauty ako pagdating sa work. Besides, I'm doing a Latin-American guy based in Hong Kong (Bobby Lopez), malapit na ang kasal ni napkhins, so my closet are open to the public. Apply na!"

In her next movie "Single" (Viva Films), where she portrays a 30-year-old virgin, Pele's claims will lure five gorgeous hunks—Alfred Vargas, Rafael Rosell, Paolo Contis, Mark Bautista and Jon Avila.

"Feeling ko magkakaiga ako while I'm surrounded by my five leading men. Mark plays a prodigious, Rafael's a bartender, Jon's a puppy, Paolo's my best friend and Alfred's a businessman."

Will Pele have one of each one?

Giant doll

Burlesque queen Ilka Mae Stann fell in love with the giant doll that Aaron Carels used in the opening number during the Ish Bida ball recently. Ever so bind-lassered, Sir Vicki volunteered to send it to Dreamia.

The doll was designed by New York-based production designer Jean Sicangco who flew in just to do the stage for the same line. Built by Gwyneth's Gun Mikael provided the handcrafted masks, decoupage jewelry and Aaron's costumes. (Hm!) Aaron's number was the night's pièce de résistance. Tama na, Jhoni na!

'Duets' new season

I was invited to join "Celebrity Duets Season 1" and the new season lovers Saturday after "Pinoy Novoid"! but I declined because I've had too many embarrassing moments in my life already. So, daring is other ways—not singing, wordlife.

I admit the latest ones who took the challenge of the hot reality musical show...so-so-so-so-so Mekanic Manjares, MMDA chairman Bayani Fernando, lifestyle guru Gee Quirino, fashion designer JC Buenvilla, chef Jr. Garg, pro soccer player Phil 'Koughboy' Isnad, beauty queen Carlene Aguilar and comedian Joey Mendoza.

"Celeb Duets" first grand winners Tessa Prieto-Valdes, theatre director Freddie Santos and composer Danny Tan are this season's judges. Tito Sotto, for my hunpaweng Joey De Leon is here singing David Bowie's "Take A Look Inside My Heart." Besides what his national anthem to the show will be, that he will dedicate "to whom it may concern."

World's sexiest

I was so touched to receive a thank-you card from my singer Sinagtala Damion. In this age of e-mails and text messages, a hand-written note is almost obsolete. Doing just a personal touch in everything he does, big or small.

In the same manner, Dong will reach out to his legion of fans via the dance contest "Let's Celebrate! The Dingdong Marian Birthday Showcase" on Aug. 27-7 pm at the Big Dome (free admission). Joining them are Ogie Alcasid, Sea Colmado, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Alfred Vargas, Iza Calzado, Shaina King, Yaya Garcia, Regine Tolentino, Rodulfo Pangilinan and Marvin Agustin.

Another reason for Dong to be jubilant is his being chosen by E! Entertainment as one of the "25 Sexiest Men of the World" along with David Beckham (UK), Gilles Marini (France), Reuben Mauruhbe (Greece), Michael Lewis (Israel), Dan Carter (New Zealand) and many hot men.

Dong's sexiness radiates from within because he makes room for others in his life by not being too full-of-himself. Smiles, amiga!

'Flawless' caravan

Catch the "Flawless" concerts with endorsers Lorna Tolentino, Richard Gutierrez, Judy Ann Santos, Sarmaia Raffi, Mark Herras and more on Aug. 31-2pm Harrison Gilmo and Olongapo. Get a chance to ask the stars their beauty secrets/payo! pointers. Eye to eye encounter for some details.

E-mail: somethingbeautiful@yahoo.com

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MY HUSBAND'S Woman

NGAYONG GABI NA SA

GMA Telebabad

FAMILY AFFAIR

BRUCE Willis, 5, and girlfriend Emma Heming arrive as guests at the Aug. 28 premiere in LA of premiere of "The House Bunny," which stars Bruce's daughter Rumer Willis. At (below, Bruce) with boyfriend Michael Alberti, second from R, her mother, Demi Moore and Moore's husband, Ashton Kutcher.

ENTERTAINMENT

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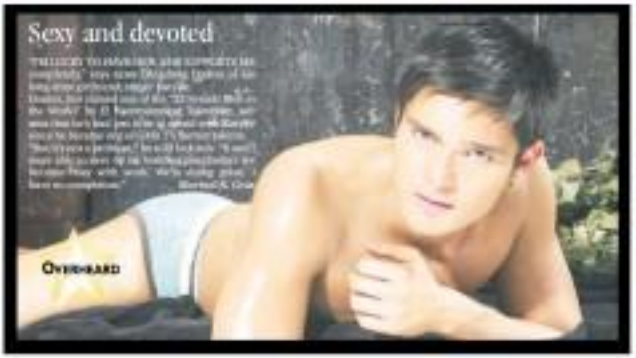

Greta buckles down to work

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LA GRETA mug co-star with Ago Medrano and Ina Claudio.

GRETCHEN BARRETTO WAS "ecstatic" after her dramatic turn in "Sukarna," the 57th anniversary offering of ABS-CBN's "Wansapanataym." Now she is raring to start work on a movie under Star Cinema, ABS-CBN's film arm.

On MMK, Gretchen played a prostitute/ex wife/ex lover/ex husband (Dennis Gutierrez) and then-ex lover (Phillip Salvador). "I had to refine many things," she said, "[starting] from the way I dressed and spoke."

She recounted that when she was done doing the taping, "My accent would come back, so I'd revert back to English. We had to re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BERNARD Pelaez

Bernard back on track

By Marinel R. Cruz

"NOW THAT MY STEPMOTHER'S GONE, I'M the one who should take care of my family," said actor Bernard "Bb" Pelaez, who is back after more than a year of "open investigation" in Melbourne, Australia.

Bb's stepfather, Dr. Lorenzo Herrera, passed away in January.

The actor has a son named Elijah with estranged wife, actress Meryll Soriano. The boy turns 4 years old on Aug. 27.

"Going back to show biz was the last thing on my mind when I left Australia to return home. I came back only because my family needed me and I had to see my son," Bb told Inquirer. "Dad works in mysterious ways. Showbiz opportunities again knocked on my door."

He returned only this year. He recently accepted a role in Star Cinema's "A Very Special Love" and a part in the Wednesday 7 p.m. drama series, "Hiyab Hiyab," on TV5. In the series, Bernard is Tyler, a young film director in love with his lead actress, played by Valeen Montenegro. The show also stars Yasmien Ortosa, Allanah Zitt and Anna Feleo. Simon Ramilo, Aeiru Ibarra and Bruno Ishino.

"When I moved to Melbourne, I was determined not to come back," said Bernard, who stayed at a friend's house and did odd jobs. "Everything had happening to me was caused by what I had to deal with at work and my personal life. I had to get out."

Bernard, 31, and Meryll, 25, married in civil rites in San Juan in September 2006. Four months later, they announced their decision to split up.

"Leaving the country was the best decision I ever made," said Bb. "Being in a place where nobody knows me helped me to rediscover myself."

(Send marinel@inquirer.com.ph)

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2 DEATH RACE
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THE MUMMY 3
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
8 TORO TOT

NOVALICHES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 TORO TOT
3 LOVING YOU
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 DEATH RACE

PIONEER

1 DEATH RACE
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 BIG STAN
4 TORO TOT

STA. ROSA

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 TORO TOT
4 DEATH RACE

LIPA

1 MEET DAVE
2 LOVING YOU
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

DASMARIÑAS

1 TORO TOT
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 DEATH RACE
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 LOVING YOU

IMUS

1 LOVING YOU
2 DEATH RACE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
5 TORO TOT

ANGELES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 TORO TOT
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS

1 TORO TOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
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4 LOVING YOU
5 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD

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2 WALL – E
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 LOVING YOU / THE MUMMY 3

ILOILO

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 LOVING YOU
4 WALL – E / THE MUMMY 3
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 MY SASSY GIRL

JOHN Lloyd Cruz

Greta buckles down to work

For page G2

...ck/Sine pads."

Everyone was "very patient" with her, Gerodiaz said, especially director Mari Herol and her co-stars. Nora thought out the actions so hey, she realized, "But he also made sure that the atmosphere on the set was light."

This made her more comfortable throughout the three-day taping, which often occupied way past midnight. "I'm long hours for TV now but many would-be-ers for doing a movie now, instead of a soap," Star Cinema head Bibbo Isorena told reporters.

Isorena revealed that Star Cinema was finalizing the concept for Santiago's movie comeback first titled Star project was the 2006 horror telling "Manhid Ka sa Kanta"). "We are thinking of either a May-December romance with John Lloyd Cruz, or a reunion movie with Aga Muhlach and Claudine Barretto," Isorena said.

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3) BIG STAN 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

4) DEATH RACE 12:00, 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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YEARFUL MOMENT
Canadian singer Celine Dion wipes away her tears, above, after she received an honorary doctorate ceremony from Laval University at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City last week. reuters

Reality bites for gay newbie

MALE REALITY SHOW CONTESTANT claims he's heterosexual. His boyfriend's pals disagree, of course.

MNSU in Cali Boy's prison, according to Ellis friends. "He acts like Ellis' girlfriend," one of the spies insists.

He kept his impending celebrity a secret from his boy toy. Or was stunned to see his boyfriend acting like a macho on TV and a tomato.

The (reality) reason

There's an outlet to the rumor that female floodwater was suspended because of a sexy pictorial, network insiders said. A mole spilled: "She signed up for a reality show she said."

Reality craze

The people around Paolo Bedhaya, host of GMA TV "Surviving," have joined the reality craze.

Friend Rene Agustin has been ribbing Paolo's "Pinoy Boy Factor" and, according to a mole, former girlfriend Erika Sihang is among the contestants on ABS's "Boracay Boot Camp."

Sihang has reportedly teamed up with current love, model Geoff Eigenmann, on the regional show.

Double-natal for Paolo.

Duets standout

"Celebrity Duets" host Dyan Castillo should tell Paolo that the best moments in the show's new edition are MMDS choir Beyond Pentecostal's female quartet. Gisbone Aguilar and cousin Jong Hilongos.

He said what model Melanie Marquez lacked in vocal prowess, she more than made up for in terms of "projection." This year's Hayden Kho (hunk), football player Phil Younghusband, salamander Rustico Garcia and soccer practice with ridiculous pink duty "chaperones"!

Helping hand

Ramon Ang did not have the money to join the "Ate" Chronicles winner this year's delegation to the Venice Film Festival, which starts Aug. 27. Johnny Manahan, Star Magic GMA-CBN talent management artist, has, reportedly come to the rescue. Ang, incidentally, came to the rescue Manahan.

7th for 'Si'

RUSHES SPECIAL

Janice and Gelli de Belen and Carmina Villaroel had their 7th week-long celebrations of the 7th anniversary of their program, "Si," starting today, Channel

Honeymoon crabs

Marie Meddings may have of a brutal doozy to the Charles Gaerlan, who's marrying basketball star Doug Kramer. "We are planning a Mediterranean cruise for our honeymoon," Charles revealed.

Handwritten vows

LOS ANGELES — Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi exchanged handwritten marriage vows. Reuters

Acting 'styles' to avoid

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

THE ART AND CRAFT OF ACTING means different things to different people. Some actors think acting is looking good and sounding groovy. Others believe acting is reacting, being, believing.

In local show biz, where "talents," become starlets and stars mainly due to their great looks, the attendant confusion has become even more confounding. There's so much bad acting on the small and big screens that truly good performances are rarer than hen's teeth.

If new Gelosis want to do good work in the biz, there are some of the prevalent acting "styles" to avoid:

• **"Hair-swinging" acting.** Have you noticed? Many female starlets and stars keep "swinging" their hair over during intensely dramatic scenes. Why? It's a nervous mannerism, and it reveals how ruin the actresses are, as they want to make sure that their pretty faces are always in view, despite the volatile or violent nature of the scenes they're emoting.

• **"Finger-pointing" acting.** Local actors love pointing fingers at each other to drive home a dramatic or emotional point. A little of this may be OK, but so many starlets and stars do it so often that the situation quickly becomes ridiculous.

One "perfect" example of this is an old Robin Padilla-Vina Morales movies, especially the scene in which the two leads were angrily shouting at each other, all the while pointing fingers all over the place, as though they were sending metaphoric signals during an emergency.

Being direct-fingers is sometimes, alas, not direct-honest as presenting and emotions rather than acted as "polished" ones.

• **"Talkating" acting.** This is when, instead of just feeling the moment, actors resort to gestures and visual expressions that provide "support" (that's what's supposed to happen).

• **"Looking-away" acting.** Instead of facing each other as people do in real life, some actors in dramatic scenes love to look away, face the camera and assume their emotional best of the... hope to be great. Big imaginary audiences are there.

Why do they resort to this obviously hokey ploy? They must think that it makes their performances look more "heightened" — but in actuality, they come off as coy and rehearsed to be truly empathetic.

• **"Sounding-good" acting.** Other actors focus on the power and beauty of their speaking voice, sounding like honeying radio actors. Again, there's too much self-love going on here, and the guilty thespians should be interested in honestly doing. They should realize that an actor's voice is only one aspect of his entire portrayal, so he shouldn't self-consciously have to ask.

• **"Kilig-factor" acting.** Young starlets and stars play to the teen peanut gallery and provide the requisite "kilig factor" that their fans need to swoon, shriek and scream at their pa-cute and pa-sweet antics. A little of this goes a long, long way, so guilty stars and starlets should know when to stop.

> Some think acting is looking good, others believe it's reacting, being, believing

• **"Arte" acting.** Some actors love pressing lofty/artistic dramatic dialogue, because they think it makes them come off as "serious" thespians. Most of the time, however, the dramatic is "arte" they are made to mouth so as to behave for movie — so, there goes their quest for heightened stature as thespians.

If all of these "styles" are wrong, actor's right when it comes to film acting? Some directors put it this way: When you face the movie camera or close-up, you must supposed to "act"... because the size of the camera shot already does a lot of that for you.

Instead, focus on truly understanding your character and his motivations — if not about it, and believe it.

On close-up, that will come off as controlled and insightful intensity, one of the hallmarks of good, judicious acting in the already highly-charged world of the film medium.

'Kasser'

Gantimpala Theatre Foundation stages "Kasser" on Sept. 12, 13 and 14 at the ABS Theatre, and Sept. 6 and 7 at SM Southmall. Lineup includes **Allan Paule, Kimberly Diaz** and **Jeffrey Cornelius**. Call 899-5745.

Avril Lavigne

On Sept. 3, pop-rock princess **Avril Lavigne** performs at the Araneta Coliseum. The Philippine stop of "The Best Damn Tour" is a Viva Concert and Events presentation, in cooperation with Mellon Productions.

Ivy League, anyone? /H3
Young feminist and her winning essay /H4

LEARNING
Editor Chela Bautista Formoso

What I've learned

Be careful in making promises

Grace Padaca
2008 RMAF awardee for government service

UPON BECOMING A GOVERNOR AFTER years of being a broadcaster—switching from being an observer to being the one observed—one of the first things I learned was why people in government were often accused of making a lot of promises and not keeping them.

One possible reason is the sheer number of people who convince you, meeting various things, often seeing you as their last and only hope. In my case, I was the answer that finally came to Isabela, after hearing all about nothing from those who came before me.

Sth have so many needs people in our country and when they get the chance to talk to a mayor or governor any place, they will not let the opportunity pass.

One time, a lady who had just received badly concealed annoyance not as she was entering to her seat. With the body language still in her mouth, she stopped to tell me of a need in her barangay. I told her, "Manang, hundik ko muna sa upuan mo at sa puso mo ang iyong dasal."

Day pain people hang on to every little hope for their big needs. I have learned to be sparing of my gestures and expressions because even the slightest of smiles or a nod or two, as you listen to them, may be taken as approval of their requests, raising their hopes.

With the very limited resources of government, not every chance can be granted. And even if one is able to grant a hundred requests, there are still a thousand waiting for a "promise" to be fulfilled.

Urgent needs

When the request is not delivered when it is needed (and it is always needed right away!) a promise is more apt to become a promise.

One reason I see for government offices (even if I can back-by-walk) was the way many of our people had become overreliance of "Barangay Water". Give them H20 and they are fine. Give them free medicines and they are okay even if you do not address the problems of why so many of them are getting sick in the first place. Build them schools and big hospitals, as is SOP. Allow them no sleep, dream and wake up to

love on passing shows about a day for a little chance to have a better life.

This was the recipe for perpetual poverty.

Having been physically handicapped since I was 3, I have learned that life is not worth living if you are dependent on others. I have learned that despite tremendous limitations, physical or otherwise, no one is ever too handicapped to cope, to adjust and even to shine.

The lessons I have learned, I am now teaching to my special children. I tell them, "Use me as your stand aid. Perhaps the Lord gave Isabela a governor who is physically weaker than most of her constituents so that, when they see her, they will realize that one can rise above one's difficulties as long as one chooses to do something about the situation.

I have to tell our people constantly that the battle is not yet over. We may have defeated the dynasty but there are other things we have to fight. We also have to have ourselves to blame our own wrong attitudes, our misplaced values, our bad habits.

After four years as governor, thankfully I have learned not to say yes mindlessly to the desires of people who come to me for the things they need.

Whatever decision I promise like my weekly Regal Day of Up-

lifting Rayos that gives me the chance to listen to them patiently and assess their situation objectively. I explain to them the need to prioritize because of the limited resources of government, especially if they continue to have big families by failing to practice responsible parenthood.

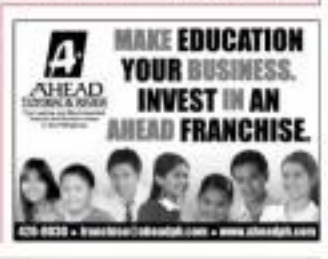
More importantly, I always remind them, challenge them, like encouraging volunteering and helping improving surrounding or fighting drug evils.

I know that our poor people, including the hunting for bread (collectors) and illegal logging brigades (labusters), know how to help themselves. But when they are doing so to support their families, it is not easy.

It is the duty of leaders to direct their energies, their devotion to their families and all their sacrifices towards what is right, sustainable and dignified.

None of us in government should learn to be morbid in making promises and deciding what to keep. We should also remember that there is, in every Filipino, the promise of becoming an honorable, self-reliant citizen if given the chance, as well as the respect, for the dreams.

Grace Padaca has been the governor of Isabela since 2004 when she won over ruling-organized dynasty under the helicopter "Bise Isabela." She will receive the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Award (Link for Government Service on Aug. 31 for empowering voters to reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing. Other recipients of the 2008 Magsaysay awards are the IRRI rice Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mentally Handicapped Institutes (CMHI/MRI) and Thailand's Thanthai Mosque for public service; Prahasit Amnuai and Mahidalon Amin of India for community leadership; Ahmad Syafii Maarif of Indonesia for peace and international understanding; Akira Ishii of Japan for journalism; literature, and creative communication arts; and Ananda Galagoda of Sri Lanka for emergent leadership.



INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

IIE LESSON PLAN CONTEST AUGUST WINNER

Chemistry in your pocket

A lesson plan integrating Chemistry and Values Education

THIS LESSON PLAN, CRAFTED AND submitted by **Sherl M. Magayanes** of the Computer Arts and Technological College in Daraga, Albay, should make the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas happy since it focuses on current Philippine coins. It may be adapted for teaching high school and freshman college students. Space limitations does not allow us to print all the activity sheets the entry comes with, but the complete lesson plan may be accessed online at: http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirereducation/learning

Objectives

Upon completion of the lesson the students are expected to be able to:
1. Name the chemical elements used in creating Philippine coins and describe some other common metals according to their periodic properties.
2. Identify some barrier affecting the private metals and come up with small measures to help counter the difficient circulation of coins.
3. Practice laboratory procedures and manipulate measuring instruments in determining such quantities as mass, volume and density.

Materials

For the lecture: Clipping of lesson news "500 times cheaper, lighter 'steel' peso coin" by Doris C. Dumlao (see reprint at right); coins (P10, P5, P1, ₱.25, ₱.10, ₱.05, ₱.01; activity sheets

For the laboratory activity: Coins (P10, P5, P1, ₱.25, ₱.10, ₱.05, ₱.01; beaker and graduated cylinder; water; periodic table of elements; pitcher in balance; activity sheets

Procedure

I. Lecture
1. Have the students read the laboratory "500 times cheaper, lighter 'steel' peso coin" and ask them to identify the metallic elements that compose the coins.
2. Ask the students to get some coins from their pockets and observe the coins' weight, texture, hardness, luster, etc.
3. Have them relate the information they got from reading the news clipping to the first hand information they got from their actual observation of the coins.
4. If needed, define words to help the students fully comprehend the news story.
5. Instruct the students to work on the activity sheets.

II. Laboratory (Interactive activity)
1. Have the students measure the mass of each denomination using a platform balance.
2. Have them measure the volume of each denomination using the water displacement method:
a. Pour water from a beaker into a graduated cylinder.
b. Measure the volume of the water (Volume A).
c. Put the coin in the water.
d. Measure the water's new volume (Volume B).
e. Subtract Volume A from Volume B to get the volume of the coin.
3. Have the students compute the density of each denomination using the formula: d (density) = m(mass)/v(volume)

Activities outside the classroom

Try to practice any or all of the following and encourage other people to do the same:
• Saving coins in jars or piggy banks in preparation for the proverbial rainy day is a good practice. However, it prevents coins from circulating effectively. So, at the end of the week, change the coins into paper bills. Save the paper bills and use the coins.
• Give your loose change to charity or share them with beggars. Charity does not always encourage mendicancy.
• Donate your loose change to antitake movements. The fabrications of machine-minted coins are quarrelled of metal that results in the skyrocketing of metal prices.
• Help—Scan your surroundings by posting up home cards and other metal scraps such as tin and aluminum cans, etc. Tell them to the junk shop and earn extra cash. Use the money to buy your needed school supplies.

Activity Sheet

DIRECTIONS: Measure each denomination's mass and volume and compute density.

Denomination	Mass	Volume	Density
P10			
P5			
P1			
₱.25			
₱.10			
₱.05			
₱.01			

Activity Sheet

DIRECTIONS: Refer to the lesson news item and answer the following questions.

Questions	Answers
What are the metallic elements used in making coins?	
What are the factors that contribute to the increase of the price of metals?	
How does shutting away coins in cans or piggy banks hinder the efficient circulation of coins?	

Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to deter smugglers

By Doris C. Dumlao
(Published on July 14, 2008)

TO DATE, BSP'S DEMONETIZING METAL PRICES AND MINING CONTINUE UNCHANGED. Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. announced that the metal contents of the various denominations of the Philippine peso and centavo coins.

The change in the metal contents was prompted by rising prices of copper, zinc and nickel, said BSP currency issuance and redemption manager Maria Corazon Ruiz.

The BSP issued a new batch of coins in May to reduce production costs—with the new ₱1 coins weighing only 3.5 grams instead of the previous 6.7 grams.

The new ₱1 coins are made of reconstituted steel. The earlier editions were 11 percent copper and 25 percent nickel.

The new brass-covered coins now weigh 4.6 grams while earlier editions weighed 3.8 grams and were made up of copper and zinc at a 60:40 percentage.

But only the ₱1 and the 25-centavo coins here so far been reconfigured. Metals used in the new coins carried the same design as the old ones, but not the weight difference should not be a problem with vending machines because it only required adjustments in settings.

The minimal value of Philippine coins, given the high cost of raw materials and minting, is usually greater than their face values, especially for lower-denomination coins. 1¢, 5¢, and 10 centavo coins.

As such, some economists predict that it is difficult to hoard coins and sell them abroad for cash or as high metal prices.

To curb smuggling, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the law was to benefited entrepreneurs and private intelligence.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said the BSP tested attempts by some groups to ship out over the land territory about ₱3 million worth of coins during December 2007 to Japan, where demand for metals is high.

It was the fourth coin smuggling attempt stopped by the government since last year.

"It has become more attractive because of high commodity prices," BOC Commissioner Armando Tabaquin Jr. said.

Based on BSP estimates, ₱12 million worth of coins have so far been seized in anti-smuggling operations.

The final coins smuggling failed last year was ₱1.2 million worth of 25-centavo coins recovered from an export processing zone.

On Feb. 13, the government also foiled the smuggling of ₱67,500 worth of ₱1 coins and another attempt to smuggle out ₱450,000 worth of ₱1 coins on May.

Philippine laws prohibit taking out over ₱10,000 worth of Philippine currency without declaring this threshold.

The recently confirmed ₱1 coins can yield more than 10 bars or 10,10 kilos of copper and over 4 bars, or 4,040 kilos of nickel.

Should copper prices are valued at $8,300 a ton while nickel prices are around $20,000 a ton.

Last 1 May, copper prices surged by more than 6 percents to $8,300 price as monopolistic hoard, banks and other investors poured out more money in commodities, driving up the price of other metals.

Nickel prices one of their highest level since 1997.

North Korea's test-firing of missiles last week also forced pickup metal prices to the extraterritorial.

But Tetangco said smuggling was not necessarily the biggest reason behind the looming shortage of bimetal coins reported by private sectors.

He said there was about P2 billion worth of peso coins currently in circulation, but these coins were not being circulated effectively.

Tetangco said some were using coins as pins and piggy banks, for instance. As of total P20b, there were 11.7 billion pieces of coins in circulation, 8.7 billion pieces of which were low-denomination coins. The remaining coins are used in ₱1 and above the lower standard of 10 pieces.

The BSP's policy making Monetary Board has already approved a new legal tender definition that seeks to "encourage the public to use coins to pay for day transactions."

The BSP is also keeps a circular that would allow the public to make payments of up to ₱1,000 using coins denominated in ₱1, ₱5 and ₱10 in a combination of these. For coins denominated in 25 centavos or less, any transaction amounts to ₱100 shall be considered legal tender.

Prior to this ruling, the retail sector has the right to refuse payment of P50 when a buyer is using coins denominated in 25 centavos, ₱1, ₱5 and ₱10.

For coins of even lower denominations—1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is even lower at ₱20.

The BSP also obtained support from the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board as well as various transport groups to raise awareness and encourage the public to accept centavo coins, resulting to fares coins circulating.

The BSP has 3 billion pieces coins available in 2008. Production will reach some 500 million pieces in 2009. By 2010, that increase in production is supposed to 1.7 billion pieces. In 2004, it produced almost 1.2 billion coins.

Playgrounds to the MIND

UE, ERICSSON SIGN MOA

The University of the East College of Computer Studies and Systems (UE CCSS) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Ericsson Telecommunications Inc. (ETI) for CCSS students to do on-the-job training at ETI. The MOA was signed by ETI's Corazon Noble Dionson (second from left) and UE president Dolor Alfaro-Garcia (3rd from left). Others in photo are ETI's Alfredo V. Peñaloza III (left) and UE dean Rodney A. Morales (right).

Sophia annual meet held in Miriam

MIRIAM College hosted recently the annual membership meeting of the Association of Women Presidents/Chancellors of Private Colleges and Universities (Sophia). This year's theme was "Women Voices of Hope." Topics included on environment, leadership, spirituality and work-life balance were given. Speakers included Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando; clinical psychologist/life coach Lourdes "Honey" A. Canamberg, Ph.D; Assumption College's Marie Eugenie School for Innovative Learning assistant dean Carmen Lili Ibañez, Ph.D; and Private Education Retirement Annuity Association president Bernadette Nacorda-Sison.

Discounted leisure park cards for UP alumni

ENCHANTED Kingdom (EK) has joined the celebration of the University of the Philippines' centennial with its Empowering People Card. Members of the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) can purchase this card for only P100 and enjoy a P100 discount on regular day passes. Each cardholder can get a maximum of two passes a day. General Special tickets and Junior Day Passes are not included in the promotion. EK executives called on UP president Dr. Elizabeth A. Roman to discuss the project. The executives were Richard P. Burgos, AVP for marketing; Johnnie A. Ruperez, AVP for group sales and operations; and Maria Fe Marcos, chair and president. Present during the courtesy call were Frank G. Cornejo, executive director, UPAA. A P10 donation will be made to the UPAA Diliman and Los Baños with every purchase of the discount card, which is available at the UPAA office in UP Diliman. EK's group sales office is Sta. Rosa, Laguna; and Makati sales outlet, Ground Floor, The Columns Condominium, 122 Apolo St., Lasaleta Village, Makati City. The promo runs until Dec. 31. Call Enchanted Kingdom at 8723 7111 to 14 or e-mail sales@enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

UST, Ateneo host international philosophy congress

THE WORLD Congress of Catholic Universities Institutions of Philosophy (CIEPHIC) or Conference Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie will host its 3rd World Congress Sept. 11-13 in Manila. Conducted every four years, the conference to be hosted by the University of Santo Tomas and the Ateneo de Manila University will be the first in Asia. Theme this year is "Philosophy, Religions & Transcendence." Plenary speakers include Jean-Luc Marion, one of France's best-known Aristotelian scholars; Franck Buleandran (Taiwan); Alfredo P. Co (UST); Lorenz Bruno Puntel and Kristin Pickett (Germany); and Juan Carlos Scannone (Argentina). To participate, register online at www.ciephic.org.ph. Registration fee is P10,000 before Sept. 11 and P15,000 from Sept. 11. Students get a 50 percent discount. Visit www.ciephic.org.ph.ts for more information, or e-mail ciephicmanila@ateneo.edu.ph.

San Beda to represent RP in SIFE World Cup in Singapore

THE SAN BEDA Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team that successfully defended its title in the recent National Exposition will represent the Philippines in the 2016 World Cup to be held Oct. 1-Oct. 5 in Singapore. Close to 50 countries will join finalists. SIFE is a non-profit, international student organization based on the principle of entrepreneurial action to improve economic and independence at skills to provide sustainable community development. Competing teams' projects are evaluated for methods, impact and results. SIFE Philippines is headed by Jose Fajardo, chief executive officer; and Patrick Chavez, executive director. In last year's SIFE World Cup in New York, United States, San Beda reached the finals. This year's team consists of Trebita Gilbertson, captain, 4th year, BS Economics and Public Policy; Mac-Jason Bulos, 3rd year, BS Accountancy; Jannelyn Fred Clemente, 2nd year, BS Legal Management; Gloria Roberta de la Rosa, 3rd year, BS Accountancy; Jerome Ilagan, 2nd year, Entrepreneurship; Bryan Endo, 3rd year, BS Legal Management; and Juan Pedro Lopez, 4th year, BS Economics and Public Policy. Donald Cojuangco, 2nd year, BS Psychology, heads the technical team. Dr. James Lorenz C. Pecoy is overall faculty adviser and moderator. Hera assisted by Professors Lester Tan Bio, Albert Gason, Jun Vivas, Mary Cecile and Family Herrera.

CIS has new superintendent

DEIDRE Fischer is the new school superintendent of Cebu International School. She has a Diplomas of Teaching and Masters of Educational Administration and Administration from the Deakin University in Australia. One of the first activities of the new CIS superintendent was to pay a courtesy call on Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña. CIS is the only international school in the Philippines to receive accreditation from the Philippines Accreditation Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities. Council of International Schools (CIS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). For more information, visit www.cis.edu.ph.

CEU holds calamity drill

CENTRO Escolar University, which has been awarded a fire safety certificate, conducted recently a university-wide calamity drill. The exercise was spearheaded by the CEU university disaster control group chair and head of the CEU security department Edgar de Mesa Jr. The fire and earthquake drills aimed to promote awareness of safety measures among students for emergencies. Among those present during the exercise were National Disaster Coordinating Council representative Eugene Cabrera, Teodoro Fire District commander Capt. Bonifacio Carla, PCP Mendiola commander Capt. Ramon Burgos Jr., MAPO-PCRO 11 Alexander Mariano, Malacañang Association of Security and School Officials (MASAS) president Dr. Donato Espejo, Manila director Col. Samuel Tecson, Catholic Education Association of the Philippines representative Romulo Fuad, chief safety services Philippine National Red Cross Jaime Bagsic Jr., operations officer of National Disaster and Fire Volunteer Brigade Marvin Raquela and Mendiola Central Fire Sub-Station. CEU vice president for Fire and Earthquake Drills Earl Bunda for its compliance with and pursuant to the provision of City Ordinance 7152 to its ancillary thereto in City by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

New Adamson University trustees

MARIA GLADYS Francis Diaz, Dr. Carmen Luciano, and Rev. Henry Esquivel, C.M., have been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Adamson Diocesan Educational Institutions Inc. (ADEI). The four-year term and appointee, patrons, budgets, and strategic plans of the university. It has five members and four executive councils. Diaz is currently honorary president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., among other things. Luciano is a treasurer and board member of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific. Esquivel, an academic, was formerly treasurer and registrar. He is currently vice president for academic affairs.

JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY signed up with the business process outsourcing industry giant eTelecare Global Solutions Inc. to promote the industry as a unique investment destination in cities in photo with (from left) Consultant for University Partnership (eTelecare) Dr. Marian Acosta, assistant dean for technology and studies (JRU) Ryma Palacios, academic vice president (JRU) Dr. Ernesto Simeon, VP for global recruitment (eTelecare), Wilhelmina Noh, dean, college division (JRU), Svetlana Hubberjan, director for strategic projects (eTelecare), Frances Ramirez, university relations officer (eTelecare).

FEU grad is CIA

FAR EASTERN University (FEU) alumnus Ryan Gilbert Kho Chua topped the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) examinations given by the Institute of Internal Auditors in the United States. The CIA designation is the only globally accepted certification for internal auditors, increasing the chances of qualified individuals who can prove their competency and professionalism in the internal auditing field. Some 70,000 examinees took the test. Chua received last month in San Francisco the William S. Smith Award (CIA Gold Medal Award) given to top-scoring candidates. It was Iloilo BS Accountancy graduate Chua's twelfth in the October 2014-CPA Illustrative examinations. He is now connected with SGV & Co.

Letran marks Quezon's birthday

CEGESO de San Juan de Letran celebrated the 138th birthday of one of its foremost alumni, Manuel Luis Quezon. The first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines was born on Aug. 19, 1878. The Letran celebration included a Mass, floral offering and breakfast with the Dominican fathers. Rev. Fr. Tomothee R. Lana, O.P., concelebrated a Mass with Rev. Fr. Rafael Gregorio, Thomas Lopez Francisco, Orlando Acosta, Pompeyo de Mesa, Boyd Tolentino and Victor Cortez. The Mass was attended by Deinda Quezon Avanceña, her sons Manuel and Emilio and grandsons Jose and Luis Quezon and son Manuel III. Letran administrators, faculty members and students attended the Mass and those offering then the breakfast with the Dominican fathers.

ADMU holds business strategies lecture

RHODES SOBH Joel Llimas, director of Credit Suisse Hall, conducted a lecture recently on high-impact business strategies at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business in Rockwell, Makati. The three-hour lecture by the creators of "Driven: Business Strategy, Human Behavior and the Creation of Wealth" was an introduction to Llimas's four-day course May 28-30 and Sept. 5-6 at the school. Llimas designed the course to allow participants to experience live case studies, interactive group workshops and direct interaction. Call the Ateneo Center for Continuing Education (CCE) at 8328 0100 or register online at www.ce.ateneo.edu.

Social Studies conference at OB

THE MARIKINA Capitol festival theme is to enhance and update the teaching of social studies in the country will be held Aug. 29-30. Organized by the Social and Human Sciences Section of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization National Commission of the Philippines, it will be hosted by the DB Montessori Center, Greenhills, San Juan City. Topics include article approaches to teaching social studies, teaching love in class, the role of law, and human rights; problem solving approaches, teaching sustainable development, social studies from an indigenous people's perspective, media literacy, community and international appreciation, the community of inquiry approach to teaching, etc. Dr. Ji-Aah Law of Cebu Normal University, 0344851 / 0345447, 09 4845042; or e-mail samsonphil@ymail.com.

La Salle Zobel's Pearl anniversary

DE LA SALLE Santiago Zobel School (DLSZ) officially began its year-long Pearl Anniversary celebration with the Grand Ceremonial Pearl Challenge at the school's swimming pool. The five-time gold medalist of the monthly activities lined up for the school's 30th anniversary celebration. The school also encouraged the Center for Lasallian Formation convening of the Bar (pals) of the Star Chapel and Philippines, a retreat for retreats and recollection.

EUREKA! *Queena N. Lee-Chua*

Getting into the Ivy League

IN THE PAST DECADE, more of my students (and their parents) have been dreaming of entering the Ivy League.

Some cite their graduate studies in Harvard or Yale, while others prepare for these universities as early as high school.

What exactly does it take to get into the Ivy League?

I requested my not-necessarily-recent list of students (even some who did not actually attend one, but who I felt deserved some effort). Ten members (two of them in particular that's were accurate), had the same major, went to school in similar universities, and graduated with similar honors.

A few years later, both asked me to recommend them for graduate studies in the same prestigious institutions in the United States. I praised both highly, and gave them practically the same evaluations.

One got into the coveted school; the other did not. I have no idea why the school accepted one and rejected the other.

Grades do count

I have a hint (no what it takes to be accepted into the Ateneo de Manila University (and possibly the University of the Philippines and De la Salle University). Grades do count—high school marks and, especially, college entrance test scores. Cramming may backfire.

As for college preparatory courses, recently has been done on how effective they really are.

My high school classmates and I did not attend review classes for college entrance tests, and most of us were surprised by the universities we chose.

Entrance tests evaluate knowledge and skills acquired through the years (not through a few weeks of review). Most students who do well in school do not require preparatory courses.

Aside from grades, Ateneo also looks at the activities that students are engaged in. Here they shown promise in a particular area? We are impressed if students can maintain their scores while engaged in extracurricular activities.

So they show parental to developing their talents for writing, math, mathematics, service (I'm, service-oriented them. By the way, Ateneo also gives a lot of financial aid to deserving students.

Other factors

Of course, there are always other factors at work, though I am not too sure how effective they are. For example, does it count to have a father or a brother who is an alumnus? Maybe, or then again, maybe not. Ms Ateneans still public universities to fair test and interest—that the students are savvy enough to know that they believe truly matter to develop themselves to the fullest.

How about the Ivy League? I am proud of my Chinese-Filipino-American cousin Edward Yap Sober, who has always been outstanding. My sister Victoria (nurse) can vouch for the University of California, Berkeley) and her husband Hong Yong (Arnold) received professor at the University of Utah) have raised their kids right.

When Edward was in primary school, I visited their house and was greeted by my precocious cousin who knew the biological details of hamsters, snakes, rats.

My next and sixth favored a stimulating home environment where Edward developed his skills not only in academics, but also in taekwondo, speech, writing, and many other fields. His dream of going to Harvard Medical School came true.

Five promising students

My cousin was accepted to to Harvard, and so were some of my good students. But so were many more who, something I did not understand until I read "Fat Envelope Frenzy," a well-all book by Jane Jagoe-Byman, former assistant director of admissions at Dartmouth College who is now taking her graduate degree at Harvard.

Djenane followed close on counseling high school seniors for one year, all of whom wanted to get into the Ivy League. Jenita Zhang had excellent SAT scores, took several Advanced Placements (AP) courses, was a concert pianist (trained at Juilliard), worked with college medical professors, and co-authored an article in a medical journal. He traveled to many Ivies and helped take care of impoverished children.

Lisa Peng, the top rhythmic gymnast in the US, came more than six hours a day in the US and in Russia. She still manages to stay on top of her studies, and finished high school a semester early to concentrate on the sport. "I've developed such a ridiculous work ethic," Lisa says. "I can take pain and criticism."

Ani Felix and Lisa certainly they can count (forward? So, Many top US schools have a quota for Asian applicants because they are already "overrepresented in the applicant pool."

Andrew Tender has great SAT and grades. Despite that drastic "function," he was able to graduate on time, due in the heroic efforts of his school—Dexter High School in New Orleans. Andrew enrolled in a Stanford gifted program ("just for her").

Mehdi Abdurahman, whose family comes from Ethiopia, is a multi-scholar. In junior year, he already finished AP Calculus, so he enrolled in higher courses at the University of Memphis during summer, also "just for fun." Mehdi has perfect SAT scores, and he has already won national scholarships for various.

She has 9 months is struggling financially, and her older sister went into debt just to go to college—Madonna is the best Hispanic student to her high school, having taken economics AP courses. But even with affirmative action, finishing some colleges prefer African-American and Hispanic-American students).

Whether it was sure who can hold her own against other students.

Those five students are already overachievers, but what does it really take to enter the Ivy League? Read the book to see the encouragement of the kids' underage—and whether there are worth it. Weighs the political, economic, and social factors are worth (many of which are beyond students or parent control).

The book is riveting, and I found myself rooting for all these bright teens. So did they all get accepted into their dream school? Read, and find out.

"Fat Envelope Frenzy" by Jane Jagoe-Byman is available in Filipiana libraries or at the 4th floor of Robinson's Galleria Mall.

E-mail Queena Lee-Chua at bluebook@yahoo.com.

Kiran Bedi: Proud to be a woman

From page H6

I once just because they're boys?" The teacher didn't say anything. Instead, she handed me some sheets of paper. "Read these," she told me quietly.

It was sort of printouts from a website. Intrigued, I began to read. The article was about a woman named Kiran Bedi, the first woman to join the elite Indian Police Service (IPS) and who quickly rose through the ranks. The article tackled how Kiran Bedi had become the first woman to head the notorious Tihar prison, one of India's largest jails which had over 9,700 male prisoners back then.

I remember thinking quite happily, "there is another feminist, just like me!" I looked at the teacher and asked her, "Miriam, what does this have to...?"

"Keep reading," she told me. I continued to and I was amazed.

Feeding the brain, soul

Kiran Bedi had entered the Tihar prison into an open school. According to the article, Kiran Bedi introduced a "quality approach to jail management." Among other things, she started classes of yoga, meditation, and "discourses by sections of religious groups to inculcate spirituality and human values among the inmates." According to the website, the illiteracy in names was made literate and the literate inmates were encouraged to pursue higher studies.

"There's more," my teacher told me.

In her early days on the force, Kiran was an assistant superintendent of police and was assigned to the West and North District of Delhi Police. During these tenures, crime fell, people participated and even vote. Enlisted, criminals came on the record, robots houses were investigated, community policing was visible and known all around," the article said.

As a Delhi police chief, Kiran Bedi was awarded six orders discipline on the roads, even with influential members of society, such as the prime minister. She was also on the Narcotics Control Bureau, became the deputy inspector general of the Mizoram Order, and even briefly made Inspector General of Prisons. She advanced to special secretary to Lt. Governor, Inspector General of Police, and then finally to Joint Commissioner of Police. She had written several books on the issues of suicide, crime against women, terrorism and drugs. She had earned the respect of both her subordinates and her superiors, and had become an icon for all women striving to gain for themselves a respectable place in society with rights equal to that of men.

Without my teacher ever saying anything more, I understood.

No bully

Kiran Bedi did not prove herself "a tough lady to an all-male bastion," as the press once said of her. She did not bully her male colleagues whenever they implied that she was on good just because of her gender. She proved herself to be just as good, if not better, as the men in the IPS by ignoring the jibes and embarrassing an entering herself and her career to greater achievements. When she didn't need to prove herself, she proved herself all the more.

The story of Kiran Bedi taught me a lesson. Far from being about boys versus girls, feminism is making no distinction between "men jobs" and "women jobs." It's about knowing your rights and knowing when those rights are being violated. It's about earning respect, not because of gender, but because it is truly deserved.

I am now in third year high school. It seems light years away from that incident when I was a child. I realize I'm no longer the little girl who was once ironic as defending every boy in her class.

It's no longer about being the best. It's about being equal.

Oh, and just so you know, some boys in my third year class managed to do better than most girls.

Teacher's guide on The Guy

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY Award Foundation (RMAF) marks its 50th anniversary with the launch of a Teacher's Guide. The guide will help educators use the video trilogy on the life of the late president, "My Guy Redux," released last year to mark Magsaysay's birth centenary. It incorporates activities (more "Adventures with the Guy," accompanied disc of interactive games that accompanies "My Guy Redux." The video trilogy can be integrated in to math subjects as Filipino, Ethics, Philippine History, World History, Values Education, Music, Art and English in elementary and high school, as well as in advanced subjects like Sociology, Literature, Public Administration, Political Science and Media Studies.

Leadership being one of Magsaysay's strengths, the material included is an additional segment featuring a three-part lessons on winning youth leaders. The series includes lessons on qualities of a good leader and activities on how not to lose the youth's idealism.

For more information on the "My Guy Redux" trilogy and Teacher's Guide, contact the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, 3/F 1344 to 81, e-mail: rmaf@rmaf.org.ph or log on to www.rmaf.org.ph. You can also check out the Anvil Publishing website: www.anvilpublishing.com.

The young feminist

From page H5

aged her to read books. The oldest Hereta, currently vice president of a human resources consulting company, also joined essay-writing contests in high school.

"I guess if I did not inherit my dad's love for books, I wouldn't be at this stage now. He was the one who got me into reading, and my passion for writing stems from that," says Hereta.

Though she loves her edit her work sometimes, that is about the extent of the father's influence on her writing.

The BSBSC was the first real only essay-writing contest she has joined so far. Her winning essay was about Kiran Bedi, the first woman in the elite Indian Police Service (IPS) to head the notorious Tihar prison, one of India's largest jails. Bedi is revered in 1991 the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service.

Though many Filipinos may not know Bedi, Hereta has been interested in the Indian since she was in grade school, drawing lessons from the Magsaysay lacrosse on the real meaning of feminism and gender equality. She says she has always been sure enough lady like her mother Cora, branch manager of a big bank in Las Piñas.

Hereta hopes to continue fighting the true gender equality by becoming a lawyer someday. Of course, she will still pursue her dream of writing a career and publishing her literary works.

She is unaffected by her victory to the essay contest. "For Ateneo international and my parents have to be the norm but, otherwise than that, I don't think much has permanently changed in my life," she says. "There's plenty of time in the future to find a spotlight. For now, I get to be a simple teenager."

THE 13 ENTREPRENEURSHIP and microfinance graduates of the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation strike a pose for their class picture.

1st graduates of MBA in Entrepreneurship and Microfinance

THE ABS-CBN BAYAN FOUNDation graduated 13 officers and executives with Masters in Business Administration major in Entrepreneurship and Microfinance (MBA-MEM) degrees.

The graduates came from the University of Makati, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, Home Guarantee Corp., Bangko Sikolap and Center-Community Transformation.

The MBA-MEM is a one-year program for entrepreneurs, managers of social development and microfinance institutions. It is implemented in partnership with University of Makati.

Dr. Eduardo A. Morato, president of ABS-CBN Bayan, said the program aimed to help build the nation from below "through the democratization of entrepreneurship by way of developing training programs and degree courses."

He said the postgraduate course was being made accessible to microfinance practitioners and small and medium enterprisers through partner universities that want to make entrepreneurship and microfinancing part of their curricula.

Also implementing the program this semester are Central Philippine University in the Visayas and Capitol University in Mindanao.

Call 8C Villanueva or Arian Lagrimas at 8309000 or 4100451 or e-mail mba.mem@gmail.com.

For more information on ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation's projects and activities, go to 3/F Calderon Bldg., E. Rod., Quezon City, or log on to www.abs-cbnfoundation.com.

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The young feminist

By Jenny Sanchez-Santiago
Contributor

KATELLYNN HECETA, grand prize winner (high school level) of the Sixth Student Essay Contest

ATASHA JOSELYNN "KAYLE" HECETA is already on her fourth fiction novel. She began the one-liner just to see if her stories published in her third book.

"I've been writing for as long as I can remember. I have this unstoppable imagination that's always coming up with new ideas," says Heceta, grand prize winner (high school level) of the 6th Reuters Magsaysay Student Essay Competition (MSEC).

She says she could have written more stories but it would have interfered with her studies as a fourth year student at Ciudad de Malolos in Lal Pilot.

Heceta began writing poems as a first grader at Jesus de la Peña International Schools and College in Las Piñas City. Some of her poems won prizes in the school newsletters. By fifth grade, she had written three fiction stories, which she posted on the school newspapers even. In sixth grade, she became a junior staffer of the school paper and had a regular column where she discussed various school issues.

Her world

This young girl finds inspiration from almost anything, everywhere. She lets her imagination run wild as she writes, closeted in her room for hours on end as if in a world of her own.

"My mom gets angry when I don't come out of my room," she says of those times when she could not stop writing.

But for many other things, Heceta is no different from other girls her age. She likes listening to music, watching movies, playing volleyball and basketball as her other hobbies.

"I can never pass up a trip to the beach or to the pool," she says. "I suppose if 'grandstanding' is considered a hobby then that should be included, too—although reading is definitely my first love."

Heceta is the fourth child of Engr. Edilberto B. Heceta Jr. and Mrs. Ma. Victoria Heceta. Engr. Heceta is an Air Force officer.

TINI VIANNA M.G.

Kiran Bedi: Proud to be a woman

By Kate Lyna Heceta
Grand Prize Winner, High School
National Capital Region

I WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY of tough women. My mother, aunt, grandmother and older cousin are all exceedingly strong, confident and proud. I admire them, and easily am inclined to follow their example. At 5, I was already parading around and calling myself a "feminist." In elementary school, I impressed my classmates when I told them I was going to be an advocate of feminism (at the time, my exact words were, "I'm going to be better than any dumb boy"). I said the words in Filipino, too).

Back then, the word "feminism" meant only one thing to me: That I could do anything better than any boy could, and nothing by anything less was tenderness. He was could convince me otherwise. This was my belief throughout my entire preteen life. The result was always the same: I went bullshit every time a classmate made an allusion to being better than I was simply because he was a boy. I strived to surpass any male classmates in practically everything, boosting myself fantastic whenever any boy scolded me.

Feminist at 5

Eventually, I began succeeding in this little "initiative" I set for myself at age 5. I reveled in the sensation of my female friends. I would often publicly celebrate the fact that many of my male classmates received failing grades. The downside of all this was that I became arrogant. "Aren't you ashamed of yourselves?" I would mockingly ask the boys in our class, especially after beating them at highly physical activities, like during PE class. "Getting beaten by a little girl like me?" And then I would laugh crazily and most of my girl friends would join in.

Needless to say my behavior did not go unnoticed. One of the boys in my class complained to a teacher who decided to do something about it. Taking me to the faculty room, the teacher asked me why the boys had accused me of and asked me if this was true. "Tama naman!" I thought angrily, but answered her in a calm manner. "Yes, ma'am, it's true. But they started it! They said they could do anything better than me."

MARIA H.H.

He is 7 years old, and everyone who has met him knows he is a very special young man. He speaks English fluently but speaks Filipino to his yaya and Chinese to his grandparents. He loves to sing along with Chinese songs, and his favorite subject in school is Chinese Mandarin. He can read short English stories and he loves to read Garfield comic books. He plays strategic computer games and puzzles, and he is determined to master the Rubik cube. He loves to draw mazes. He has memorized all the Hong Kong MTR lines, and he can tell you how to get to any of the stations through the different interconnections.

His name is Stefan, and he holds the international record for being the youngest student to win the gold medal in the E.nopi Math Olympiad.

Stefan

How has E.nopi Math helped him? Because of E.nopi's eye-level method of teaching concepts and developing skills, Stefan's learning experience in Math has been smooth and virtually hassle-free. He understands that there are steps to go through in accomplishing operations, and he is not rattled by big numbers. He enjoys solving problems and during the times they baffle him, he does not just give up and stomp away. Instead he goes back and tries to understand what he is doing wrong. On the gets frustrated too, whenever he fails to get the concept at the first try. But he understands that these are momentary setbacks, and before long he is on the go again.

However, as far as I am concerned, the best thing E.nopi has done for Stefan is to teach him to love learning for its own sake. It is such a rare quality among students nowadays who are more concerned about their grades and the rewards their parents are going to give them in exchange for honors and medals. I hope and pray that Stefan will never lose sight of the true value of education.

E.nopi is a program I would recommend because of all it has taught Stefan. It has helped him become better at being a learner, and it has helped him become happier as a student.